

Cairo accord 'encourages' U.S.

WASHINGTON (USIA) — State Department spokesman Michael McCurry on Thursday called "very positive" and "quite encouraging" the agreement Feb. 9 between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on several key security issues that clears away "some of the obstacles" to implementing the declaration of principles.

"They have got a lot of work left to do," he cautioned, regarding the "many difficult issues that will arise from implementing the declaration."

He noted that the PLO and Israel are preparing a complex, detailed document relating to implementing the declaration, adding "that is going to take some time."

"Our view is that there should not be any lengthy delay in producing that document, because they need to get on with the business of changing the realities on the ground," he stressed.

"Their desire to insure that there are no ambiguities in the declaration is a worthy exercise, and some of the impediments to making progress have been cleared away by the

chairman and the foreign minister," he said.

"Implementation of the declaration and changing the realities on the ground is what will demonstrate to both the Israelis and Palestinians that there are true benefits for taking the risks of peace," Mr. McCurry said.

On Wednesday, President Clinton called the accord a "big milestone" in the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Clinton broke the news of the agreement during his meeting with the World Jewish Congress leadership here Feb. 10.

Outlining the U.S. approach to the Middle East peace process, Mr. Clinton stated that it rests on four pillars: strengthening U.S.-Israel relations; ensuring the successful implementation of the Israel-Palestine declaration of principles; getting negotiations with Syria on track; and ending the Arab boycott of Israel.

The following are excerpts from President Clinton's remarks:

"We have worked very hard to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East — one that enhances Israel's security and offers the acceptance of normal life which has

Rights report assails Sudan

GENEVA (AP) — Government and rebel forces in Sudan have massacred thousands of civilians in indiscriminate killings and kidnapped children on a massive scale for use as slaves or soldiers, according to a new U.N. report.

The report released to the U.N. Human Rights Commission on Thursday cited grim details of widespread executions and torture in "ghost houses," in northern Sudan and deliberate bombing of civilian targets in war-shattered southern parts.

"Potentially all categories and strata of the population are affected by violations of human rights committed by agents of the government or by abuses against the life, security and freedom of the individual committed by members of the SPLA (rebel factions)," it said.

The report by Human Rights expert Gaspar Biro is due to be discussed later this month during the commission's annual six-week session. It is the first time Sudan's record has been subject to public scrutiny by the U.N.'s top human rights watchdog and follows years of pressure by Western governments and private organisations.

In Gaza, people await changes on the street, not signings

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AP) — Both Israeli and Palestinian officials have said that the toughest details about security arrangements under autonomy had been worked out, but cautioned that it would take weeks to finish withdrawal terms.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said it would take at least a month to finalise an agreement, and there would be no prisoner releases or Israeli troop withdrawal until then.

In Geneva, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said he and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had fought about every sentence and be discounted any changes on the ground until the entire laborious process was over.

"I'm not sure that we can implement it gradually. I think we are very near to completing the whole story, and then the implementation will begin," Mr. Peres said.

On the streets of Jericho and Gaza, where the population waits for the Israeli troops to leave, there were no celebrations.

"All the time they talk about this agreement, but there is no change here," said Suhailah Al Kumi, a 37-year-old Gaza shopkeeper.

On both sides many saw the signing ceremony in Cairo as basically a public relations move. After two previous meetings between Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat, neither side wanted to come out and face an increasingly skeptical public

with empty hands.

Uri Savir, director-general of the foreign ministry, told a press conference that Mr. Peres bore down hard to insist that some decisions be finalised.

"I believe that certain walls of suspicion are starting to crumble, and that we understand the Palestinian desire to run their own lives does not contradict security issues," Mr. Savir said.

"If the agreement doesn't work this time there will be more frustrations, more violence and an uprising with all the weapons coming in here," said Majid Arafat, a pastry shop owner distantly related to the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader. "There will be more Palestinians and Israelis killing each other on the streets."

The constant bloodshed has eroded support for the peace process on both sides. According to the Associated Press count, 62 Palestinians and 20 Israelis have been killed in violent confrontations since Sept. 13.

Israel's right-wing condemned the Cairo agreement as a further step towards a Palestinian state that would endanger Israel's existence. They planned several protests.

Palestinian support for the Israel-PLO accord has dwindled as Israeli forces continued tax raids, house demolitions, land confiscations and arrests.

Palestinians say there are as many as 14,000 Palestinians in

Arab lawyers group ridicules Kuwaiti justice in Farhat case

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab Lawyers Network, a London-based umbrella organisation for Arabs practising the profession, has denounced the ruling of a Kuwaiti court in a murder and rape case involving a Lebanese family immediately after the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation in early 1991.

In a statement made available to the Jordan Times, the network questioned how the court found Jaber Al Omairi, a former Kuwaiti police inspector, guilty of murder but cleared him of rape when testimony given by the victim and circumstantial evidence pointed to his guilt.

The case involves the Farhat family, long-term residents of Kuwait. According to Naimat Farhat, who at that time was 32, Mr. Omairi forced his way into the Farhat residence on March 2, 1991, in the closing days of the war to end the Iraqi occupation of the emirate, bound her father Ismail Farhat and brother Osama Farhat, raped her twice, killed the father and brother and shot her in the head.

Ms. Farhat survived the attack and now lives in the U.S. with her brother Naim, an art dealer.

Pressure brought to bear upon the government prompted the Kuwaiti authorities to open the case. Ms. Farhat travelled to Kuwait and identified Mr. Omairi as the assailant.

The High Court of Kuwait tried the case and in December found Mr. Omairi guilty of murdering Ismail and Osama Farhat and dismissed the rape charge saying there were

contradictions in the testimony of Ms. Farhat.

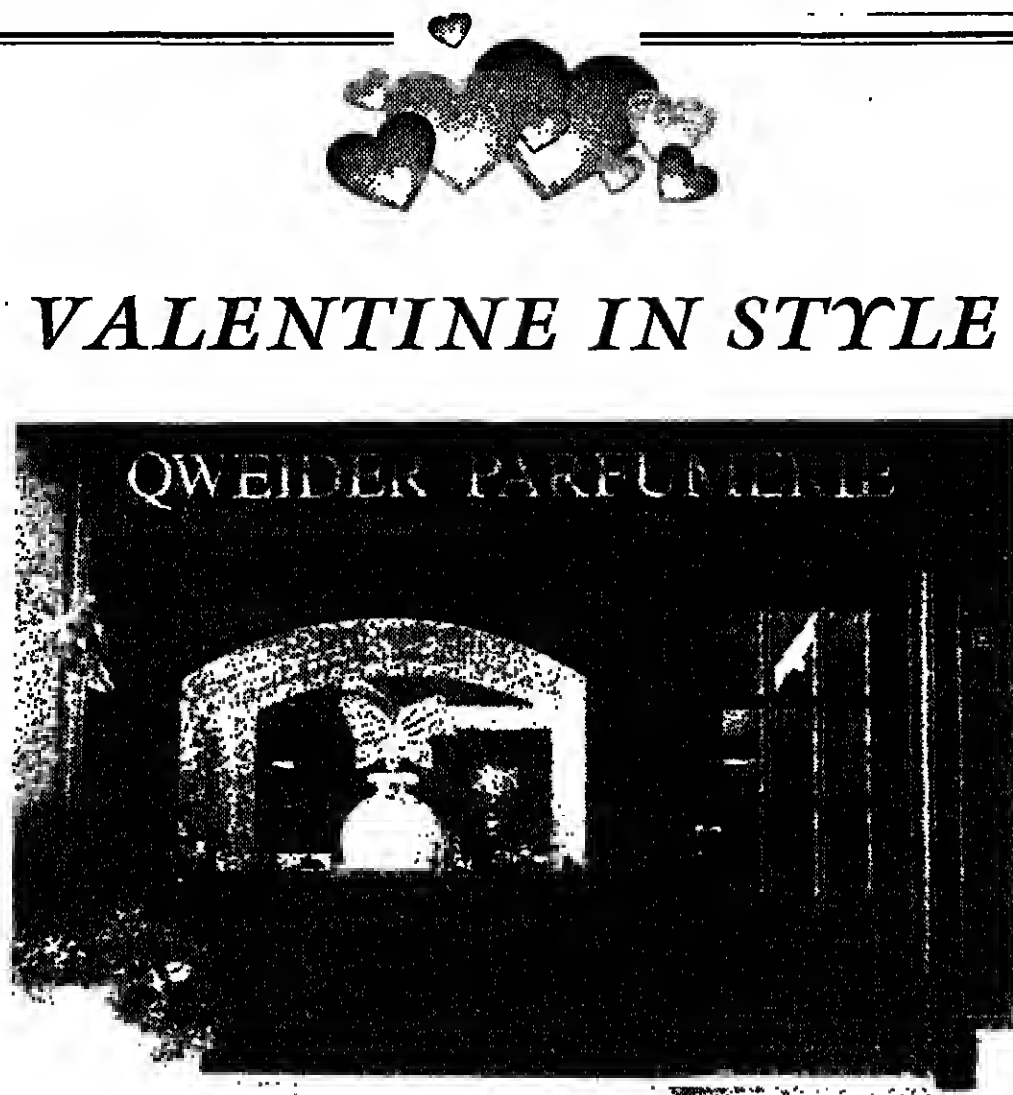
The defendant, who was sentenced to life, is appealing the case in the supreme court. A hearing is set for Feb. 20. Legal experts familiar with the case say that it is most likely that the appeal will be accepted and the sentence could be reduced particularly that the high court had adjudged that the defendant had killed the two men believing that "he was carrying out a patriotic act."

The Arab Lawyers Network ridiculed the Kuwaiti system of justice for the dismissal of rape charges against Mr. Omairi on grounds that there was no supportive evidence and the only testimony to support the charge was that of the victim herself.

"Kuwaiti justice tells that a virgin Muslim Arab is willing to stand before a court of law, take the oath of the Koran, and falsely announce that she was dishonoured," said the network's statement.

"Kuwaiti justice seems to be still living the legendary capabilities of its hero patriot Nairah Al Sabah who made fools of American congressmen," said the statement. It was referring to the daughter of the then Kuwaiti ambassador to Washington who appeared before the U.S. Congress and said under oath that she was a Kuwaiti nurse who witnessed Iraqi soldiers stealing incubators and killing Kuwaiti infants during the occupation.

The judgement of the court "is an attempt to open the door before the Kuwaiti Court of Appeal to play its designated role in the charade so that the criminal could be acquitted and released under the pretext that he was



VALENTINE IN STYLE

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JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Les Aventuriers De L'Espace
17:41	L'Ecole Des Fais
18:30	Beaumanoir
19:15	News In French
19:30	Ushunia
20:30	News In Arabic
21:30	Family Matters
22:00	The Campbells
22:30	News In English
Feature Film: "Stuck With Each Other"	
PRAYER TIMES	
05:06	Fajr
06:25	(Sunrise) Duha
11:49	Dhuhr
14:48	"Asr
17:13	Maghrib
18:33	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifish, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624390	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terresanta Church Tel. 622364	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694195	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 624324, 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Temperatures will significantly rise during the next two days becoming above average, with winds becoming southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp. Amman 4/16	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Aqaba..... 10 / 22

Deserts..... 2 / 17

Jordan Valley..... 11 / 21

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 15, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings:
Amman 43 per cent. Aqaba 32 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hanna Mansour..... 750197

Dr. Nikal Al Mahini..... 751672

Dr. Khalil Al Jbali..... 740740

Dr. Salah Al 'Usud..... 649028

Firas pharmacy..... 661912

Ferdows pharmacy..... 778336

Al Asema pharmacy..... 778336

Nairoukh pharmacy..... 623672

Al Salan pharmacy..... 636730

Yaouub pharmacy..... 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy..... 637660

Najib pharmacy..... 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Fayez Al Qadi..... 248743

Al Quds Pharmacy..... (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Youssef Abu Sa'd..... 989000

Khalil pharmacy..... 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre..... 637111

Civil Defence Department..... 661111

Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue..... 630341

Civil Defence Emergency..... 195

Rescue Police..... 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade..... 891228

Blood Bank..... 775121

Highway Police..... 843402

Traffic Police..... 896300

Public Security Department..... 630321

Hotel Complaints..... 603800

Price Complaints..... 661776

Water and Sewerage

Complaints..... 897467

Amman Municipality

Complaints..... 787111

Telephone Informant (directory assistance)..... 121

Overseas Calls..... 010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs..... 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs..... 661101

Jordan Television..... 773111

Radio Jordan..... 774111

Water Authority..... 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority..... 815615

Electric Power Company..... 636381

RJ Flight Information..... 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport..... 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre..... 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn..... 644281/6

Akikah Maternity, J. Amn..... 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity..... 642362

Malhas, J. Amman..... 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani..... 664174

Shmeisani Hospital..... 669131

University Hospital..... 668545

Al-Muasher Hospital..... 667279/7

The Islamic, Abdali..... 666127/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali..... 664166

Italian, Al-Muhajreh..... 771013

Al-Bashir, J. Asrafiah..... 775111/26

Army, Marka..... 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital..... 602240/50

Amal Hospital..... 674155

ZARQA:

Zarka Govt. Hospital..... (09)983323

Zarka National Hospital..... (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital..... (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital..... (09)90990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital..... (02)225555

Greek Catholic Hospital..... (02)272273

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital..... (02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital..... (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30..... Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)

06:30..... Aqaba (RJ)

06:30..... Dhahran (RJ)

06:30..... Karachi, Dubai (RJ)

06:30..... Beirut (RJ)

06:30..... Colombo (RJ)

06:30..... New Delhi (RJ)

06:30..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

06:30..... Cairo (RJ)

06:30..... London, Berlin (RJ)

06:30..... Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN	
Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday	
Dep. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday	
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday	
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday	
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple	650
Banana	680
Banana (Mukammal)	620
Cabbage	30 / 30
Carrot	170 / 100
Cauliflower	90 / 50
Clementine	260 / 200
Cucumbers (large)	150 / 100
Cucumbers (small)	250 / 180
Eggplant	160 / 80
Garlic	900 / 700
Grape Fruit	200 / 120
Green beans	700 / 600
Lenox (large)	160 / 100
Marrow (small)	140 / 80
Olives (green)	240 / 180
Orange	350 / 300
Onion (dry)	220 / 150
Onion (green)	220 / 150
Pepper (hot)	240 / 180
Pepper (sweet)	250 / 200
Potato	280 / 200
Radish	120 / 80
Tomato	160 / 90
Sprouts	120 / 60
Spring beans	640 / 500

Home News

Crescent sighting starts Ramadan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Holy Month of Ramadan started in Jordan and many other Arab countries Friday.

A statement issued by Chief of Islamic Justice Izzeddin Al Khawaja Al Tamimi Thursday said the crescent of the lunar month of Ramadan was sighted on Thursday evening making it the first day of the fasting month. On this occasion, Sheikh Tamimi congratulated His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian people for the sighting of the month of good deeds for the Arab and Islamic nations.

Also, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs issued a statement on the occasion, urging Muslims to observe the fast of the month.

The statement said Ramadan is a blessed month because it witnessed many Islamic triumphs. It urged Muslims to give Zakat (alms for the poor) during the holy month to widows, orphans and the needy and on Monday to call on them to visit their families and relatives as a form of social solidarity.

Meanwhile, an official at the Ministry of Supply has said that the ministry has made available to consumers large quantities of food supplies and consumer goods.

The ministry official told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that these food supplies can be found in abundance at the Civil and Military Consumers' Corporations and the warehouses of the ministry.

The official said basic food supplies imported by the ministry, such as sugar, rice and milk, are available in quantities sufficient for four to six months.

The source said other items not imported by the ministry regularly, such as olive oil and frozen chicken, were available in sufficient quantities in the local market.

Affirming that the ministry would remain firm in forcing food merchants to abide by health regulations, he said the ministry would continue to monitor food prices in all of the Kingdom's markets by stepping up its inspection campaigns.

He warned that merchants violating pricing policies of the ministry would be referred to the concerned authorities.

The ministry source expected fruit and vegetable prices to remain stable and reasonable throughout the month, noting that the fasting month comes in a non-transitional period between two agricultural seasons.

Earlier in the week, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali issued a communiqué setting working hours for government officials during the holy month between 9.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The minister urged government employees and citizens to be observant of the norms and traditions of the month by not eating, drinking or smoking in public during fasting hours.

Also as a norm, all liquor stores and nightclubs close during the month while restaurants open only in the evening.

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The Princess noted that the success of the charity campaign in the past three years has encouraged QAF to pursue its fund-raising efforts and in-kind contributions to the needy.

Last year's campaign, said the Princess, resulted in the collection of JD 40,000 which was distributed to beneficiaries through QAF's 45 offices operating in the country.

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, honorary chairperson of the QAF Board of Trustees, announced the campaign at a press gathering on Feb. 5, noting that the funds this year will mainly benefit the three major areas of need: Rehabilitation and vocational training programmes for heads of needy families; direct in-kind assistance to needy people suffering from malnutrition and poor health; and financial aid to excelling underprivileged

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Experts draft course to upgrade children's conditions

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Amman Thursday ended a two-day meeting held in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning and came up with various recommendations regarding children's needs and means to upgrade their status in Jordan.

The meeting also resulted in the drafting of a course of action for achieving and supporting the goals of the Jordan National Plan of Action (NPA).

Representatives from the Ministries of Planning, Health, Education, and Social Development, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were divided into three committees as follows: health sector, educational sector, and social development sector.

Each committee reviewed its plans and tackled the problems faced by the concerned governmental and non-governmental sectors regarding children's needs and conditions in Jordan.

The health sector committee suggested unifying all vaccination programmes so that they fall under one authority, thus guaranteeing that at least 95 per cent of the newly born will be vaccinated against diseases.

Furthermore, the group suggested establishing a national committee from various sectors to work in women's and children's health fields.

The social development sector committee came up with suggestions to guarantee children's rights. The group pointed out that these should be continuous coordination between institutions that work towards developing local societies, such as exchanging studies and experiences.

Moreover, the committee suggested concentrating on supporting studies and research focusing on childhood problems and their broad economic and social perspectives.

The educational sector committee suggested implementing legislations concerning indigent children as well as teachers' salaries, which the committee said are low, and discourage teachers from producing.

The committee also stressed the importance of improving primary education, and eliminating the numbers of drop-outs.

UNICEF area representative Victoria Rialp said UNICEF will study all the recommendations presented by the committees and will look at ways to raise the money and resources that are needed to support the institutions.

"I hope we will be able to do some justice for children and to provide some follow up action," she said.

Mrs. Rialp said she hoped such meetings would be held annually and that different countries in the region would host the event to exchange information and experiences in the area.

She also noted that discussing the NPA for children pointed out the necessity of putting this programme into consideration in the UNICEF agenda and budget.

"By the next few years, hopefully we can study the implications of the issues we considered and the ones we haven't," she explained.

She added that UNICEF will look at other options to support children, "not just financially," she said.

"Working with children doesn't cost a lot of money but a lot of time, and that is what we are looking at."

AMMAN (J.T.) — Scattered showers fell on the Kingdom Friday evening as a result of low air pressure centred south of Turkey.

Officials at the Meteorology Department expected more rain to fall Friday night and Saturday morning due to a cold front accompanying the low pressure.

Meteorologist Nabeel Kafaween told the Jordan Times that another front will affect the Kingdom Saturday evening bringing more rain.

He said the effect of the lower pressure will decrease gradually Sunday morning, but scattered showers would continue at times until Monday when another low pressure would affect the Kingdom.

On Thursday His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan joined a large congregation of worshippers at Um Al Hiran district near Amman in special prayers for rain.

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Friday announced the death of former Tourism and Antiquities Minister Zuhair Ajlouni. Mr. Ajlouni, who passed away early Friday had also served in several other government and armed forces posts. He will be laid to rest after noon prayers today (Saturday) at Um Al Hiran Cemetery.

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AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas urged directors general of health departments in the governorates to exert their authority in taking initiatives to upgrade performance and asked them to carry out integrated studies aimed at identifying their departments' needs for the coming six years.

Addressing a meeting Thursday of department directors, Dr. Malhas said it was important to establish environmental, school health and health education units at the various health departments.

He emphasised the need to provide supplies of drugs to the various ministry hospitals and health centres.

Also Thursday, Dr. Malhas visited the Drug Control Laboratory and chaired a meeting of the technical committee charged with developing the laboratory's capacity to conduct various tests.

The minister discussed with the committee the present situation of the laboratory and proposals to upgrade the service it offers.

The committee comprise experts, consultants and specialists in the drug industry health ministry, Jordanian universities and private sector.

Field inspection teams from the Supply Ministry Thursday seized a supply of frozen meat stored in a warehouse owned by an Amman merchant.

Ministry sources said the meat was slated for sale as fresh meat after it was thawed.

The ministry, in cooperation with the Public Security Department (PSD) sealed off the store and plans to have the meat destroyed by a special committee to be formed for this purpose.

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national air carrier, said it was prepared to transport agricultural products from Jordan to European destinations at a rate of 400-460 fils per kilo.

RJ said it would transport produce to the Eastern European countries at cost.

The pledges were made at a meeting Thursday at the Ministry of Agriculture during which discussions centred on how to stimulate the marketing of Jordanian products abroad.

The meeting, which was chaired by Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Mahdi Farhan, was attended by representatives of the Association of Vegetable and Fruit Producers, unions of Jordanian truck companies as well as the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and RJ.

The officials reviewed means of marketing the current season's surplus of agricultural produce and solving problems related to transporting the products abroad.

Farmers' representatives pointed out that the current crop surplus has not been sufficiently nor properly marketed and thus has resulted in significant losses for the farmers.

They demanded that the government help farmers find new markets for their produce and that the cost of transport be drastically reduced.

They also demanded that the government cancel fees and taxes on exporting.

The meeting also reviewed exporters' plans for ensuring the continued flow of Jordanian agricultural products to Arab and European countries.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Grindlays Bank ANZ, one of the international banks which had a presence in pre-1967 West Bank, is putting final touches on arrangements to reopen its branch in Ramallah, according to Don Mercer, the chief executive of Australia and New Zealand banking group.

Mr. Mercer, who was here on a four-day visit, said the bank had completed all formalities and received the approval of the Jordanian government to re-open its branch in Ramallah.

"We got the final clearing from the Central Bank and are ready to reopen in good style and strength as soon as possible," he said.

Grindlays has two other branches in Jerusalem, one in Nablus and one in Bethlehem.

"Ramallah was chosen first for practical reasons, it is a good place to start, and Jerusalem is a sensitive matter," said Mr. Mercer.

Grindlays General Manager in Amman, Adnan Sallakh said that he might be leaving to the West Bank soon to start preparations for the re-opening.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Orphans Fund Friday announced that its investments in 1993 totaled an estimated JD 34 million, with the major investment made in development schemes.

Fund Director General Mohammad Kbreishan said the funds were invested mainly in real estate, the Amman Financial Market, the housing sector, industry, agriculture and educational projects.

He said these funds created income-generating projects and provided jobs to the unemployed.

Some of the funds have been invested in Islamic banks and financial institutions which follow an Islamic system of ensuring profits as opposed to banks which offer interest on deposits.

Last year's investments, said Mr. Kbreishan, yielded JD 3 million in profits which will be deposited in the orphans' accounts.

The Orphans Fund, which has 17 offices around the Kingdom, helps to develop funds inherited by orphans, he added.

Mr. Kbreishan said his department deals with minors' inheritance and the funds of orphans who have no legal representatives.

He explained that the monies are kept in trust until the beneficiary reaches the age of 18, at which point the funds are turned over to him or her.

Mr. Kbreishan said the Orphans Fund came into existence in 1972 by a special law enacted upon the directives of His Majesty King Hussein.

AMMAN (J.T.) — At the request of Reporters sans Frontiers, the Council of Europe and Arte, the Franco-German television channel, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has since Christmas lifted the restrictions previously imposed on the sending of mail to Sarajevo.

Thus it has again become possible to send mail to the Bosnian capital.

Mail must be written on a postcard or aerogram bearing the address and telephone number of the person in Sarajevo for whom it is intended.

Aerograms must be folded, but not sealed, and must not contain money or any other document.

The postcard or aerogram must be placed in a stamped envelope and sent to the following address: Council of Europe/Sarajevo, 67075 Strasbourg Cedex - France

Reporters sans Frontiers and the association called Equilibre will then transport the mail to Sarajevo and distribute it there.

A similar system has been set up in Sarajevo enabling the population of the city to correspond with people abroad.

For further information, those interested are requested to telephone Reporters sans Frontiers, on (33) 67798182 or fax (33) 67796080.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education has produced three educational packages for the basic education cycle.

The packages, financed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisations (UNESCO) as part of its programme of assistance to Jordan, covers three school subjects: physics, geography and biology, according to Saad Farkouh of the Educational Technologies Department at the Ministry of Education.

Ms. Farkouh said the packages were designed to enable students to learn by themselves or in small groups, using educational materials provided in the package.

Teachers can also use these packages to enrich the school curricula and help students learn quickly, Ms. Farkouh said.

She added that these packages will help the ministry explore unique educational experiences in the fields of supervision, preparation of curricula and educational materials.

"These packages are easy to use by both the teacher and the student inside and outside the classes," Ms. Farkouh said.

She urged education department directors to encourage schools to use these educational packages in the teaching-learning process.

She said 56 experts were involved in the production of these packages, which took nearly one year to create. The cost of each package was about \$166, she said.

The aim of producing these packages in cooperation with UNESCO is to highlight the role they can play in the modern educational process and to

stress their importance in encouraging self-learning or learning in small groups, Ms. Farkouh said.

She added that a total of 30 packages on each of the three subjects were produced and that a package on each subject will be sent to all education departments for use in the teaching-learning process.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Jordanian Perspective

Jordan is rethinking, but not the way its enemies would want

By Dr. Musa Keilani

JORDAN IS under siege. As we go about our daily lives, the state of affairs that challenges the country, its leadership and its people may not be clearly written in black and white for everyone to take note of and behave accordingly, but a siege is what it amounts to no matter how anyone looks at it.

Events that unfolded in the last four weeks have once again proved to us that moderation and principled positions have a high price and would inevitably bring about crises and tests of fire for the country's firm stands, internally, regionally and internationally. But the advocates of extremism and opportunism would be better off if they realise that Jordan's positions, whether in terms of the democratic process under way in the Kingdom or its commitment to the peace process did not come out of a vacuum but from a realistic assessment of the regional and international situation and a committed policy over the decades, particularly its demand for a comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement addressing all aspects of the conflict, away from dramatics and short-sighted gestures.

In the meantime, we as Jordanians have to absorb the impact of the developments and devise means to counter their influence in our lives through a collective approach. What we stand to lose is our way of life that our leadership has guided through the decades and our identity as Jordanians that our leadership has established for us.

Jordan is under siege on four different tracks. The first track indeed is the ever-present external diplomatic pressure applied on it to sign an agreement with Israel and then negotiate the terms of that agreement in contradiction to every known norm of negotiations. Such an approach cannot be valid even in cases where the issues involved are simpler, let alone the complex Middle East conflict, where national, regional and international interests have been meshed so much together into a mess that makes little sense to anyone except those whose direct interests are targeted. Jordan has fiercely resisted such approaches, but it would seem that those who apply the pressures have not given up.

Against the looming backdrop of those pressures came the allegations raised by Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas that regulations on safety of food and medicine available to Jordanians were grossly violated. There could be some truth in the charges, but the way the affair was handled has not only done serious damage to public confidence in the safety

mechanisms that protect us from abuse but has also dealt a severe blow to the same people whose skills and entrepreneurship that we count on as pillars of the country and the conduit to developing the nation and its economy.

Jordan has always relied on the strength and innovative skills of its human resources to advance itself in the regional and international scenes. The same human resources and skills came under scrutiny and attack as a result of the charges levelled by our health minister without a clear distinction between a few unscrupulous traders and the majority of others who genuinely adhere to sound business principles without compromising public health standards. And the result was indeed damaging. Quite simply, how can we expect our entrepreneurs to continue their innovative contributions to the economy after casting doubts on their business practices? That is definitely not to say that violators of the law should be forgiven. They should be punished, and punished severely, as an example for others who might be tempted to tamper with food and medicine standards and regulations. But the whole affair should have been handled in a different approach rather than drawing it through all kinds of ambiguities and confusions, leading to investors stopping short and diverting their funds away from Jordan.

The quicker the process of investigations into the affair, followed by definite results and prosecutions wherever warranted, the better for all of us to put the episode behind us and refocus our attention on nation-building.

Adding fuel to the fire came the blasts at two cinema houses and the assassination of one of our diplomats in Beirut.

The three issues — the questions over food and medicine, the explosions at two public places and the despicable assassination of Jordanian diplomat Nayeh Maaytah — could not be directly linked with each other for an outside observer. But for us in Jordan there cannot be any distinction among the issues if only because we have to live through the consequences of all these issues plus the pressure on our country in the peace process, and, as such, we have to look at the cumulative impact of these developments.

For once, our elected representatives in Parliament have risen to the challenge of the occasion by authorising the executive authority to handle the challenge to our national

security in whatever means it finds fit. It is an overwhelming gesture of the awareness of the perils that we all face.

Revelations by our interior minister, Salameh Hammad, that the security forces have uncovered plots to destabilise Jordan come not exactly as a surprise. We all knew that sooner or later such incidents were bound to occur since there was no doubt that there were parties which were totally upset by our liberal views, pragmatism and commitments based on recognition of the facts on the ground.

Our honourable deputies deserve praise for their response of giving a carte blanche (it is indeed what the parliamentary statement issued Wednesday represented) to the government to deal with the situation. Of course that was what was expected of them and they were only doing their job, but their decision reflected a realisation that Jordan is facing a national emergency and it is a time to set aside political differences and that there is a need to concentrate on a unified approach to confronting the needs of the day.

Dubious external circles are trying to exploit the massive land and sea borders that the Kingdom shares with five countries — Syria, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Egypt. It is no easy task for our security forces to impose a foolproof filter at every nook and corner of our borders. But they have done an excellent job so far since all indications appear to affirm that the acts of terror that we witnessed in the past weeks were concocted locally with possible external funding from parties which have a vested interest in destabilising Jordan.

It is a time for us to be vigilant and abstain from rumour mongering which will only add to speculations and heighten tension. There are elements and parties which are trying to change our way of life and divert it away from moderation, liberalisation and democracy.

For those parties, challenging Jordan's national security and stability by trying to undermine public confidence in our security forces and threatening the safety of Jordanian diplomats abroad is an effort to stop the Kingdom in its tracks and to force it to rethink before it proceeds on its committed course.

Rethink, we will. We are doing it already. But definitely not along the lines that those who challenge us want us to.

Answer in resolve

THE DISCLOSURE Wednesday by Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad that the security forces had uncovered more plots than originally thought to destabilise Jordan through assassinations, bombings and attacks on security personnel should only strengthen this country's resolve to combat terrorism by all legal and effective means. In this regard, public participation in efforts to root out terrorism from our midst is a necessary component of the law and order process. The worst thing that could happen is to have Jordanians of all walks of life rely only on police to check the attempts to undermine the stability and security of the Kingdom. When it comes to the safety of the country, the security forces and the people are and should be on the same wave length and fighting on one united front.

In retrospect, it was expected that the enemies of the peace process would join forces with the elements who are desperately trying to weaken the country to destabilise the country. Ever since the beginning of the peace talks on the Middle East conflict, there have been persistent signs that Jordan would become one of the targets of the opponents of peace negotiations with Israel. As a matter of fact, ever since the beginning of the Palestinian conflict there had been efforts to intimidate Jordan into taking disastrous actions. This pattern seems to continue and now is the time to put an end to this cycle of intimidation by one way or another, especially when there are indications that the source of the current wave of violence could be external.

Still the widespread concern triggered by the minister's recent revelations should not cause panic or make us opt for precipitous emergency measures. It must be remembered that Jordanian democracy is also a prime target of many sides. There are many parties which are not happy with the success of the Jordanian democratic process and some would do anything to abort it. There is every reason to believe that the threats and plots against the country can still be defeated while democracy still reigns supreme.

Against this backdrop, the main thing is to strengthen not only the diligence and alertness of our security people but also that of the public. Our people are fully aware that they have the highest stake in the security and stability of this country, and we should expect from them to stand as one against all threats, intimidation and terrorist crimes.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Rolf Ekeus has been entrusted with his U.N. mission in Iraq and not Kuwait but has been visiting Kuwait to get money to finance the continued sanctions on Iraq and to replenish the empty coffers of the United Nations, charged Tareq Masarweh in Al Ra'i. The United Nations bankruptcy is behind Washington's continued pressure on Iraq to force the Iraqis to sell \$1.6 billion worth of oil, 30 per cent of which will go to the United Nations and end its bankruptcy, said the writer. Of course since the Iraqis are not paying, the only alternative is Kuwait which continues to supply the United Nations with funds and is ready to continue paying as long as Iraq remains under embargo, said the writer. Kuwait has gambled with its future by selling its oil in advance, with the payment going to the United Nations and the countries which sent their armed forces and military equipment to help restore the rulers to their seats in Kuwait, he continued. The writer said that Ekeus has no mission in Kuwait where he gave statements to appease the Kuwaiti hatred towards Iraq and got paid for it. The writer said that the Iraqis realise that it is their oil which the United Nations is after and they are determined to thwart such aims and to offer more sacrifices for the sake of protecting their dignity.

A columnist in Al Dostour charged that Egypt was mediating between the Palestinians and the Israelis for two reasons: to ensure its continued leadership — albeit by name — of the Arab World on the one hand and to make its own peace treaty with Israel more palatable to the Arab masses on the other. Yasser Za'atreh said that all Arab states directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict were not happy about the Oslo deal between Israel and the PLO, but Egypt continues to peddle the deal and call the Arabs to accept it. The writer said that the Arab states were not happy about the deal because it has achieved nothing for the Palestinians and the Arabs at large, but had opened the door for Israel's hegemony over Arab economy. With Egypt having a hand in this affair, the PLO leadership finds itself unable to move freely without the blessing of Cairo in matters related to its dealings with Israel, said the writer. It is now feared that Cairo will also be linking Israeli and the Palestinian economy and keeping the Palestinian autonomy rule under the Israeli hegemony, said the writer.

The Week in Print Israel's peekaboo with peace

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE PEACE process, Jordanian domestic affairs, Iraq and other issues were the key topics that figured high in the local press in the past week. The controversy over food and medicine was also discussed by columnists.

In pursuit of their aggression on the Arab World, the Israelis are not only ignoring calls for withdrawing forces from southern Lebanon but their leaders are preparing for an offensive on that country, Mohammed Kharoub wrote in Al Ra'i. The writer said that the Israeli raids on South Lebanon were paving the way for this expected offensive, following the death of four Israeli troops in confrontation with the Lebanese resistance. Israel would not wait for any one to give it the green light but would go ahead with plans for attack, Mr. Kharoub wrote.

Al Dostour columnist Mohammad Kawash ridiculed Israeli statements that a referendum would have to be held on the future of the occupied Golan Heights. The Israeli government did not conduct a referendum before occupying the Arab lands in 1967 and there should be no question about an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied lands, Mr. Kawash wrote. Washington has often declared that the peace process is based on U.N. resolutions that call for an end to occupation and an exchange of land for peace and no other concept can be contemplated in this case because the world community has ruled against occupation, he added.

Tareq Masarweh wrote in Al Ra'i that it was rather difficult for the Israeli leaders to decide on pulling out their forces from the Golan because the strategic heights holds 40 per cent of the water resources which feed Israel. He said South Lebanon also holds valuable water resources which are needed by the Jewish state. By resisting any pullout from these two areas, the Israelis hope to secure huge funds from the United States not only to compensate them for their pullout but also to ensure that Washington finances for desalination projects to ensure continued water supplies, Mr. Masarweh wrote. He said Israel could also forget about peace with the Arab states and stick only to its deal with the PLO rather than returning the valuable water resources to the Arabs.

Al Dostour columnist Walid Abu Bakr wrote that Israel was continuing to blackmail the Arabs and

pressure them into accepting its own version of peace as long as it feels it is the stronger and dominant power in the region. Mr. Abu Bakr said that since the start of the Madrid conference-Israelis have given up nothing of the occupied lands and has continually stalled and prevaricated as it fears no enemy in the region. Israel persists in occupying Arab land, continues its atrocities against the Palestinians and disregards U.N. resolutions and calls for genuine and lasting peace, he wrote.

The same views were echoed by Amr al-Hijazi in Sawt Al Shaab. The Arabs should take stock of the peace process and examine the facts on the ground, the writer said. Nothing has been achieved by the Arab parties through their prolonged talks with the Israeli enemy since the Madrid conference, and if there were any gains at all, they were in favour of Israel at the regional and international levels, Mr. Hijazi wrote. More importantly, he

in Sawt Al Shaab that Iraq had agreed to all the conditions imposed by the United Nations and the big powers and accepted the idea of installing "cameras" to monitor its armament programmes.

Instead of ending the sanctions or at least ease the suffering of the Iraqi people through opening the door for Iraq to import food supplies, the U.N. is imposing stricter control and inspection measures on Iraq and is continually sending teams to Iraq as a kind of humiliation of the Arabs, Dr. Qatani wrote.

In another Al Ra'i column, Mr. Masarweh mocked at the reported weeping of Rolf Ekeus upon learning of the plight of an Iraqi family in Baghdad. The man has no sympathy for the Iraqis and is helping the United Nations to create the plight, the writer said. Mr. Ekeus serves as an agent for the Americans and the Israelis and hates the Arabs and the Muslims, and for this reason he pursues his efforts to humiliate the Iraqi

Islam and the Jordanian people.

Discussing the question of food and medicine, Faleh Al Faek wrote in Al Ra'i that the health minister had failed to prove that Jordanians were eating garbage and that our merchants are fierce animals and sharks and that our medicine is unfit for treating patients. The writer said that the health minister should have acted within his own ministry and through the powers vested in him to see to it that everything runs smoothly and that there was no damage to public health instead of causing an outcry.

Mohammad Dawud wrote in Al Dostour that it is not enough to the government to announce that the food and medicine question had been referred to the office of the prosecutor general. The government should realise that corruption does not end with this move, he said. What is required is a stricter control and continued campaigns of inspection to deter any manipulators and to prevent continued deception of the public, the writer said. That merchants continue to import unlimited amounts of items including food and the government ought to find a way to stem excessive importation and at the same time impose stricter control and inspection on the incoming goods, he said.

Mr. Kawash wrote in Al Dostour that while the government is busy reforming its public administration system it should also concentrate efforts on the officials handling the control of the quality of food and medicine coming to the country. The writer said that in the coming stage Jordan is expected to export more of its products and economic progress is in the offing and therefore there is urgent need to control those who control the quality of foodstuffs and medicine as part of the overall reform of public administration.

Taker Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dostour, said that the alleged corruption — concerning food and medicine to the prosecutor general was an important step. The prosecutor holds the power to act against the manipulators and those tampering with the public health, the writer noted. No issue can attract public attention like the corruption problem and nothing could cause loss of public confidence in the government like the continuation of corruption, he said. He advocated strict and deterring measures against those responsible for corruption.

Gamsakhurdia — a riddle even in death

By Maria Korolov
Reuters

JIKHASKARI, Georgia — "By inter-accidents, Georgia's first post-Soviet president is dead and buried in a makeshift grave near the west Georgian village of Jikhaskari."

But six weeks after Zviad Gamsakhurdia's death — by his own hand, according to initial reports — his body has still not been found and exactly how he died remains a puzzle.

His family are adamant he is dead, though they refuse to disclose where his remains are.

However, many of his enemies believe he is still alive — ready to pop up again and spark a fresh round of civil strife in his homeland.

He said that even if he were to die he would continue to fight from beyond the grave, he recalled his wife, Manana, "He said: 'I will do even more for Georgia than I do now.'"

Manana said initially that Gamsakhurdia killed himself on December 31 after the collapse of his armed comeback bid in western Georgia.

She has since dropped mention of suicide and, in remarks to Reuters late last month, refused to discuss how he died.

Gamsakhurdia, an iconic figure and fiery orator who was idolised by his followers, was controversial from the moment he came to power in 1991 in Georgia's first free elections.

His nationalist policies led to a bid for independence by the Ossetian minority in the north that led to bloody conflict.

Accused by his enemies of dictatorial methods, Gamsakhurdia was toppled in January 1992 by a military coup and eventually replaced by former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Then, as Shevardnadze strove unsuccessfully to fend off a separatist rebellion in Georgia's Abkhazia province in August 1993, Gamsakhurdia returned dramatically from exile in the rebel southern Russian region of Chechnya to stage another bid for power that led to civil strife.

His comeback attempt was crushed late last year only after Russian forces came to the aid of Shevardnadze's men.

"The life of such a man as Gamsakhurdia begins after his death," said Merab Kiknadze, a loyal aide. "He is not the sort of man who is forgotten."

Kiknadze, speaking in Chechnya, said he had no

doubts Gamsakhurdia was dead. "We know where the body is," the family has firm information about what happened but they don't want to release the name of the source for safety reasons.

"But for many people in Georgia his death is so hard to accept that they refuse to believe it. He wasn't just the president, he was the symbol of independence."

"If he was dead, they would have found the body a long time ago. So he is alive," said Alexander Chikvadze, a 42-year-old from the west Georgian province of Mingrelia, Gamsakhurdia's power-base.

The people who disliked him the most are those who still think he is alive.

"I don't believe he's dead. He was such a slippery man," said Nino, a Tbilisi housewife. "He's such a person that you can expect anything from him."

The only way oow for Georgia to be certain that Gamsakhurdia will not return is if his body is found. He was last seen in the strongly pro-Gamsakhurdia village of Jikhaskari, and in most versions, that is where he is buried.

Weeks of searching however have brought no results. Megona Margia, head of village administration, said Gamsakhurdia had been seen in Jikhaskari and could have stayed in a number of different houses.

"He had many supporters in this village," he said. "The police came here, but they were not able to find anything."

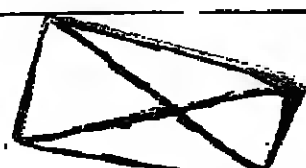
The only people who openly admit to knowing where the body is buried are in Chechnya. But they are not willing to come to Georgia and point out the grave without firm guarantees of safety from the Georgian government.

According to Kiknadze, who represented the family in negotiations with Tbilisi, the family is willing for observers to be present when the body is exhumed and do not oppose a visual examination of the body.

But Manana is against any autopsy, which would be required by Georgian law, and wants the investigation dropped.

A prosecutor's representative, who arrived in Chechnya to meet the family, said: "We have to establish the reason for Gamsakhurdia's death so that in 10, 15 years there will be no questions."

Late last week, foreign representatives who had arrived in Tbilisi and Chechnya to take part in the identification of the body returned home after negotiations collapsed.



February 9, 1994

The Cairo Agreement

February 9, 1994
Final Version
Article

Passages

The two sides agreed on the attached text to be included in the Gaza-Jericho Agreement.

The Jericho Area

1. The size of the Jericho Area will be as depicted on the agreed map attached to this Agreement.
2. In addition, while not part of the Jericho Area:
 - a. Pending the entry into force of the Interim Agreement, the holy site of Nebi Mousa will be under the auspices of the Palestinian Authority for religious purposes.
 - b. During religious events that take place three times a year and other special occasions that will be coordinated with the Israeli authorities, Palestinians will have the right to religious pilgrimage to the Al-Maghtas under the Palestinian flag.
 - c. Palestinian private projects, as well as joint ventures in accordance with the Declaration of Principles, will be located as agreed on the shore of the Dead Sea.
 - d. Safe passage will be provided from the Jericho Area to Nebi Mousa, Al-Maghtas and the projects and ventures as agreed in paragraph c. above on the shore of the Dead Sea for the above mentioned purposes. Details regarding the safe passage arrangements will be included in the Gaza-Jericho Agreement.
3. Roads within Jericho city will be under Palestinian control. Joint patrols on the main roads will be operated, led by the Palestinian vehicle. The issue of Auja and its roads will be negotiated in the immediate future in Tabá.
4. Religious affairs in the "Shalom Al Israel" Synagogue in Jericho will be under the auspices of the Israeli authorities.

The Gaza Strip

1. In accordance with the D.O.P., during the interim period the Gaza Strip and Erez settlement areas, as well as the other settlements in the Gaza Strip, and the Israeli military installation area along the Egyptian border in the Gaza Strip, as indicated on the attached map will be under Israeli authority. In the areas delineated in yellow on the attached map and without derogating from Palestinian authority, responsibility will be shared as follows:
 - a. The Israeli authorities will have the overriding responsibility and powers for security and the Palestinian Authority will have the responsibility and powers for civil affairs, subject to the Gaza-Jericho Agreement. In addition, with regard to those areas delineated in yellow, cooperation and coordination in security matters, including joint patrols, as agreed, will be implemented. Possible changes in the area designated yellow in the Southern Security Zone will be dealt with in Tabá.
 - b. Without derogating from Palestinian authority and in accordance with the D.O.P.:
 - a. On the three Israel roads connecting the Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip to Israel, namely: the Kissufim-Gush Katif road; the Sufa-Gush Katif road; and the Nahal Oz-Karni-Nezzarim road, including the adjacent sides upon which the security of traffic along these roads is dependent, the Israeli authorities will have all necessary responsibilities and powers in order to conduct independent security activity, including Israeli patrols.
 - b. Joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols will operate along these roads and the adjacent sides. Such joint patrols will be led by the Israeli vehicle.
 - c. Where the Israeli authorities carry out engagement steps, they will do so with a view to transferring, at the earliest opportunity, the continued handling of the incidents falling within Palestinian responsibility to the Palestinian Police.
 - d. Overpasses will be constructed on intersections between the lateral roads and the main north-south road.
 - e. These arrangements will be reviewed by the JSCC after one year from the date of completion of the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip.
2. Zoning questions will be dealt with in Tabá.

Other issues

The early empowerment agreement will be negotiated in Tabá, after the completion of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement. The Interim Agreement, including modalities for elections and redeployment of forces in the West Bank, will be negotiated in Washington, D.C.

Passages

1. General

- a. While Israel remains responsible during the interim period for external security, including along the Egyptian border and the Jordanian line, border crossing shall take place according to the arrangements included in this Article. These arrangements aim at creating a mechanism that facilitates the entry and exit of people and goods, reflecting the new reality created by the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles, while providing full security for both sides.
- b. The arrangements included in this Article shall apply to the following border crossings:
 - (1) the Allenby Bridge crossing; and
 - (2) the Rafah crossing.
- c. The same arrangements will be applied by the parties, with the necessary adjustments, to agreed seaports, airports or other international crossings, such as the Abdullah and Damya bridges.
- d. The two sides are determined to do their utmost to maintain the dignity of persons passing through the border crossings. To this end, the mechanism created will rely heavily on brief and modern procedures.
- e. In each border crossing there will be one terminal, consisting of two wings. The first wing will serve Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip and West Bank and visitors to these areas (hereinafter "the Palestinian Wing"). The second wing will serve Israelis and others (hereinafter "the Israeli Wing"). There will be a closed Israeli checking area and a closed Palestinian checking area, as set out below.
- f. Special arrangements will apply to V.I.P.s crossing through the Palestinian Wing. The liaison bureau to be established pursuant to paragraph 5 below (hereinafter "the Liaison Bureau") will define the scope and the nature of these special arrangements.

2. Control and Management of the Passages

- a. For the purpose of this Article, "passage" is defined to mean the area from the crossing barrier at the Egyptian border or the Allenby Bridge, passing through and including the terminal and:
 - (1) with regard to the Allenby Bridge crossing, from the terminal up to the Jericho Area; and
 - (2) with regard to the Rafah crossing, from the terminal up to the outer limit of the Israeli military location along the Egyptian border.
- b. (1) Israel will have the responsibility for security throughout the passage, including for the terminal.
- (2) An Israeli director-general will have the responsibility for the management and security of the terminal.
- (3) The director-general will have two deputies who will report to him:
 - (a) an Israeli deputy who will be the manager of the Israeli Wing. Israel will have exclusive responsibility for the management of the Israeli Wing;
 - (b) a Palestinian deputy, appointed by the Palestinian Authority, who will be the manager of the Palestinian Wing.
- (4) Each deputy will have an assistant for security and an assistant for administration. The assignments of the Palestinian deputies for security and administration will be agreed upon by the two sides in Tabá.
- (5) There will be maximum coordination between the two sides. Both sides will maintain cooperation and coordination on matters of mutual concern.
- (6) The director-general will continue to use Palestinian contractors to provide bus services and other administrative and logistical services.
- (7) Palestinian policemen present at the terminal will be armed with handguns. Their deployment will be decided upon in Tabá. Other Palestinian officials present at the terminal will be unarmed.
- (8) The details of management and security and Liaison Bureau issues will be dealt with in Tabá.
- (9) The two sides will work together in Tabá in order to seek ways for additional arrangements in the Rafah terminal.
- (10) Both Parties will review these procedures in a year time. c. Except for the arrangements included in this Article, the

current procedures and arrangements applicable outside the terminal shall continue to apply throughout the passage.

d. (1) Once incoming passengers have crossed the terminal, they will proceed to the Jericho Area or the Gaza Strip, as appropriate, without any interference from Israeli authorities (safe passage).

(2) Outgoing passengers may proceed to the terminal without any interference from Israeli authorities after joint verification that such passengers hold the necessary documentation for exiting the area to Jordan or Egypt, as set out in this Agreement.

3. Arrangements for Entry from Egypt and Jordan Through the Palestinian Wing

- a. At the entrance to the Palestinian Wing there will be a Palestinian policeman and a raised Palestinian flag.
- b. Before entering the Palestinian Wing, passengers will identify their personal luggage and it will be placed on a conveyor belt. Each side will be able to inspect such luggage inside its own checking area, using its own personnel and, if necessary, may open the luggage for inspection in the presence of the owner and a Palestinian policeman.

c. Persons entering the Palestinian Wing will pass through a magnetic gate. An Israeli policeman and a Palestinian policeman will be posted on each side of this gate. In the event of suspicion, each side will be entitled to require a physical inspection to be conducted in inspection booths to be located adjacent to the gate. Passengers will be inspected by a Palestinian policeman in the presence of an Israeli policeman. Accompanying personal belongings may also be inspected at this point.

d. Having completed the above phase, persons entering the Palestinian Wing will pass through one of three lanes for the purpose of identification and document control, as follows:

- (1) The first lane will be used by Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip and Jericho Area. These passengers will pass via a Palestinian counter, where their documents and identity will be checked. Their documents will be checked by an Israeli officer who will also check their identity indirectly in an invisible manner.
- (2) The second lane will serve other Palestinian residents of the West Bank. These passengers will first pass via a Palestinian counter, where their documents and identity will be checked. Then they will continue via an Israeli counter, where their documents and identity will be checked. The two counters will be separated by tinted glass and a revolving door.
- (3) The third lane will serve visitors to the Gaza Strip and West Bank. An identical procedure as in paragraph 3. d(2) above will apply to such visitors, except that they will first pass via the Israeli counter, and then continue via the Palestinian counter.

e. In the event of suspicion regarding a passenger in any of the three lanes described in paragraph d. above, each side may question such passenger in its closed checking area. Suspicion justifying questioning in the closed checking area may be one of the following:

- (1) the passenger was involved, directly or indirectly, in criminal or planned criminal activity, in terrorist or planned terrorist activity and is not a beneficiary of the amnesty provisions of this Agreement;
- (2) the passenger conceals arms, explosives or related equipment;
- (3) the passenger holds forged or non-valid documentation or the details included in the documentation are inconsistent with those included in the population registry (in case of a resident) or in the data base (in case of a visitor), except that questions relating to such inconsistency will initially be raised at the counter and the passenger will be questioned in the closed checking area only if the suspicion has not been removed; or
- (4) the passenger acts in an obviously suspicious behaviour during the passage via the terminal.

f. If, at the conclusion of this questioning, the suspicion has not been removed, such passenger may be apprehended, after the other side has been notified. In case of a Palestinian suspect being apprehended by the Israeli side, a Palestinian policeman will be asked to meet with the suspect. Following notification to the Liaison Bureau, any further treatment of the apprehended person will be in accordance with Annex III (Protocol Concerning Legal Arrangements in Criminal Matters).

g. In the Palestinian Wing, each side will have the authority to deny the entry of persons who are not residents of the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

For the purpose of this Agreement, "residents of the Gaza Strip

and West Bank" shall mean persons who, on the date of entry into force of this Agreement, are registered as residents of these areas in the population registry maintained by the military government of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, as well as persons who have subsequently obtained permanent residency in these areas with the approval of Israel, as set out in this Agreement.

h. Following the above procedure, the passengers will collect their luggage and proceed to the customs area. (The procedures will be agreed upon in Paris.)

i. The Palestinian side will provide passengers whose entry is approved with an entry permit stamped by the Palestinian side and attached to their documents.

At the conclusion of the direct and indirect checking of the documents and identity of passengers passing via the first lane and stamping their entry permits, the Palestinian officer will provide the passenger with a white card issued by the Israeli officer. A Palestinian official posted at the exit of the Palestinian wing will verify that the passenger holds such a white card and will collect the cards with indirect and invisible Israeli checking.

For passengers going through the second and third lanes, the Israeli officer will provide the passengers with a blue card, after checking their documents and identity, and verifying their entry permits. An Israeli and a Palestinian official posted at the exit of the Palestinian Wing will verify and collect the cards. White and blue cards collected will be checked by Israeli and Palestinian officials.

In cases where either side denies the entry of a non-resident passenger, that passenger will be escorted out of the terminal and sent back to Jordan or Egypt, as appropriate, after notifying the other side.

4. Arrangements for Exit to Egypt and Jordan Through the Palestinian Wing

Passengers exiting to Egypt or Jordan through the Palestinian Wing will enter the terminal without their luggage. Thereafter, the same procedures described in paragraph 3 above will apply to them, except that the order of passing via the Israeli and Palestinian counters will be reversed.

5. Liaison Bureau

a. There will be a liaison bureau at each crossing point in order to deal with matters arising regarding passengers passing through the Palestinian Wing, issues requiring coordination, and differences regarding the implementation of these arrangements. Without derogating from Israel's responsibility for security, the bureau will also deal with incidents.

b. This bureau will be comprised of an equal number of representatives from each side and will be located at a specified location inside each terminal.

c. This bureau will be subordinate to the CAC and to the relevant RCO.

6. Miscellaneous

a. Special arrangements will be agreed upon by the two sides regarding the passage of goods, buses, trucks and privately-owned vehicles. Pending this agreement, the current arrangements will continue to apply.

b. Israel will attempt to complete the structural alterations on the Rafah and Allenby Bridge terminals not later than the date of the completion of the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and Jericho Area.

If these structural alterations are not completed by that time, the arrangements described in this Article shall apply, except for those arrangements that cannot be implemented without the structural alterations.

c. In order to cross through the crossing points in and out of the Gaza Strip and Jericho Area, residents of these areas will use documents as detailed in (the Annex developed by the civilian committee). Pending the entry into force of the Interim Agreement, other West Bank residents will continue to use the existing documents issued by the military government and its Civil Administration.

d. Visitors to the Gaza Strip and Jericho Area will be permitted to remain in these areas for a period of up to three months granted by the Palestinian Authority and approved by Israel. The Palestinian Authority may extend this three-month period for an additional period of up to three months and will inform Israel about the extension. Any further extensions require the approval of Israel. The Palestinian request for a four-month period and an additional four months will be negotiated in Tabá in the immediate future.

e. The Palestinian Authority will ensure that visitors referred to in paragraph d. above will not overstay the duration of their entry permit and authorised extensions.

Agreement draws mixed reaction

(Continued from page 1)

many issues remained to be negotiated. They said negotiations with the Israeli delegation were a very difficult battle.

"In practice, we were negotiating with three Israeli delegations — the army who were the hardliners, (Foreign Minister Shimon) Peres the moderate, and (Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin, who was less hardline than his army generals," a PLO negotiator said.

The PLO leadership was concerned that the delay in the implementation of the Sept. 13 accord was eroding support for it among Palestinians and it would only have drawn more divisions and bloodshed in the occupied territories. Initialing the agreement, they argued, would give internal momentum for the negotiations on implementation of the Oslo accord.

Some Palestinians argued that the PLO leadership had conceded a lot to Israel in order to sign the agreement.

Executive Committee member Salim Najiab, however, criticised the Cairo agreement as "dangerous" saying it included many loopholes and PLO concessions.

What has been accepted in Cairo was redeployment of Israeli troops rather than withdrawal since Israel has been given control over areas surrounding Jewish settlements much bigger than the size of settlements, he said.

"The agreement has given Israel all its wants regarding security issues, and nothing for Palestinians. Israel has also been given control of a number of roads connecting Jewish settlements which divide the Gaza Strip," Mr. Najiab said.

"We are very worried about the possibility that Israel might choose to accept only its own reading of the Cairo agreement... we are concerned over some articles which indicate the continuation of occupation instead of its gradual removal as stated in U.N. Security Council Resolution 242," Mr. Najiab said.

But chief Palestinian negotiator Faisal Husseini, who took part in the negotiations, defended the agreement saying that both the Oslo and Cairo agreements were only a step that would ultimately

lead to independence and a Palestinian state.

"Unfortunately, people cannot still distinguish between an interim period, which we are negotiating, and the final status," Mr. Husseini said.

"We are talking about an interim period, during which final status negotiations will start, which means we will be moving from one stage to another, and it also means we will not be able to end occupation completely and at once during the interim stage," he argued.

"However, when we reach final status, it will be the period of independence and statehood."

"I think this agreement includes elements that would enable us gradually to achieve independence because it paves the way for Israeli withdrawal and redeployment from densely populated areas," he said.

Other PLO officials called for guarantees that ensure the implementation of the agreement.

PLO official Nabil Amr, a supporter of the Sept. 13 accord but who calls for democratisation and political reforms in the PLO, said the Cairo agreement offers Israel the upper hand and right to be the effective reference point for all decisions. He said the need to break the deadlock reached in negotiations should not mean ignoring the pitfalls which would challenge the PLO's ability to implement what it signed.

"It seems that the need to sign the agreement after the series of unsuccessful attempts since September evidently led to a failure to include the necessary guarantees for a scheduled implementation," Mr. Amr said.

He said the PLO leadership should start working on securing such guarantees in order to ensure better conditions during the interim and final periods.

accord as having a policeman armed with a handgun at the border crossings and total subordination to Israeli security concerns as mentioned in many of the articles concerning border crossings.

Some residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip visiting Jordan said they were gravely concerned over the possibility that they would be more humiliated and harassed by having to go through three checking areas while crossing rather than just two.

"Now we go through the Israeli and Jordanian checking points. According to the new agreement, we will be passing through an additional Palestinian checking point," one West Bank resident said.

He said Palestinians feel terrified and humiliated by Israeli measures while crossing the bridge. "Under the excuse of security, Israel will refrain from improving these measures."

Palestinians crossing into Jordan have complained of harassment by Israeli security officers at the crossings, and humiliating body searches. The details of crossing procedures in the Cairo agreement have frightened them more. They feel there will be added security measures which will exhaust them instead of preserving their dignity.

Both Mr. Najiab and Mr. Amr criticised the PLO's negotiating strategy which led to the loopholes in the Oslo and Cairo agreements. They called on the PLO leadership to clearly define and reconsider its negotiating strategy in order to improve the Palestinian position in peace talks and to avoid surprises.

Mr. Najiab, upset that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat signed the Cairo agreement before presenting it to the Executive Committee for approval, also criticised the PLO leader for downgrading his position and accepting to negotiate with Mr. Peres, the foreign minister, as his equal.

"Arafat has accepted the role of the head of Palestinian delegation in the PLO-Israeli liaison committee instead of Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen). This gives Israel the right to demand that Palestinians return to a higher reference than Arafat for final decision... this weakens the Palestinians' negotiating position," Mr. Najiab said.

He said Palestinians were worried that if such concessions were repeated, the PLO leadership would lead the people to further "dangerous pitfalls" because the leadership has been acting without being accountable to any side.

Jordan sees no problems with accord

(Continued from page 1)

the Palestinian and Jordanian sides and that Thursday's meeting was "very good."

He denied that there was continued tension between the PLO and Jordan over coordination and said that the Palestinians were fully aware of our position (regarding security issues) before they signed the agreement with Israel.

"I don't anticipate any problems with the PLO-Israel agreement because it appears to be borne out of our agreement with the PLO," Dr. Anani said.

The PLO and Jordan concluded a draft security agreement in mid January which at the time was described by a PLO official as an accord that "would set the principles of future coordination on issues of borders, training and exchange of security information with the Jordanians."

Although the details of the January accord were not made public, a PLO security official

was quoted as saying that it laid the basis for future security coordination and enhanced the PLO's negotiating position with the Israelis "by coordinating our own side's views."

On Wednesday, Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres signed the 21-page document dealing with security issues and border crossing points in a ceremony hosted by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Most of it was put together in marathon talks held both in Davos and Cairo.

Mr. Arafat gave King Hussein a copy of the agreement during Thursday's meeting and told reporters he "was enlightened by the King's views on the various issues we must face together."

He thanked the King for what he described as his "warm embrace of all our problems and issues."

"It is not strange for the King (to do that) when he already carries the worries of the Jordanian-Palestinian family," Mr. Arafat told journalists before leaving for Tunis.

NOTICE OF SALE

Date: Sunday, Feb. 13, 1994, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Location: American Embassy warehouse near 7th Circle

Items to be sold: Used residential and office furnishings and equipment.

Type of sale: Sealed-bid. Bid forms can be obtained on the day of sale.

Conditions of sale:

- 20 per cent cash deposit required on sale day.
- Sale items will be available for inspection on sale day.
- Bids must be submitted by 1:30 p.m. on sale day.
- Bids must be submitted at the American Embassy warehouse.
- Bids will be opened and bidders notified beginning Tuesday, Feb. 15, 1994.
- Items must be removed within 24 hours after notification. After that period, a JD 50 per day storage fee will be assessed.
- All items are sold on a "where-is, as-is, non-returnable" basis.

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THE GENERAL MANAGER

P.O. BOX (667)

AMMAN - JORDAN

Confidence crisis unsettles Turkish markets

the excess money floods in," a banker said.

But some economists say devaluing the lira alone without any other measure will probably fail to settle markets and will simply aggravate the lack of confidence.

"It must be part of a stabilisation package," a senior state bank official said.

"Devaluation will not bring any benefit to Turkey even to exporters," said Kubilay Cennet, treasurer at Finansbank.

The cash-stripped treasury will pay salaries of over 500,000 state employees total-

ing about 17 trillion lira on Feb. 15. The next day, 27 trillion lira of fresh cash will flow into the markets through a treasury domestic debt repayment.

The treasury has announced three public offers and three T-bill sales to drain next week's cash flood, seen by economists as a disaster waiting to happen.

"I must borrow shorter term and at higher rates. If offers are not attractive, I can't commit myself to a longer term deal as we can't see, tomorrow, one private banker treasurer said.

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's fuel industry could grind to a halt soon unless consumers fork out cash to pay for supplies, the fuel and energy minister has said.

"The sun of non-payments has taken on such proportions that in the near future... it could completely paralyse the economic activity of energy sector enterprises," the ministry's Infotek Information Service said.

In the first official indication that even export markets could be hit by the depending financial crisis, it said supplies could be disrupted, to "both non-payers and prompt payers."

Fuel producers, whose workers are threatening to strike over unpaid salaries, are owed about 11.6 trillion roubles (\$7.4 billion) by customers in Russia and other former Soviet republics.

Some enterprises have been forced to reduce output, abandon investment projects or put workers on unpaid leave.

The problems were reflected in January production figures. Crude oil and gas condensate output fell to 27.3 million tonnes (6.5 million barrels per day), down 10.1 per cent from January 1993.

Western Siberian oil workers are growing impatient as the government appears at a loss over how to tackle the non-payments crisis afflicting the entire economy. Total non-payments are about 20 trillion roubles (\$13 billion).

The second biggest oil producer, Yuganskneftegaz, is one of the worst hit, with debts of more than 400 billion roubles (\$250 million). Its workers are demanding urgent government action.

ITAR-TASS news agency said they appealed to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to convene a nationwide meeting of oil and gas industry leaders and trade union representatives.

Yuganskneftegaz general director Sergei Muravlenko said his workers had not been paid for three months.

This article is submitted by Naser Nabulsi, private client group, Merrill Lynch — Dubai

5.9 per cent annual rate. We continue to look for German 3-month money rates to fall to 4.0 per cent or less by the end of this year compared with 5.7 per cent currently. We maintain our 12-month target of DM/USD 1.85, and expect the dollar to reach the DM/USD 1.80 level in 3 months.

tion against the dollar to U.S.\$/GBP 1.46 in 12 months as U.S. short-term interest rates rise by 50 to 75 basis points by the end of 1994.

Technical View: The British pound rallied almost 0.3 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Jan. 28 and in the process moved to the top end of its long-standing 1.47-1.51 U.S.\$/1 trading range. Sentiment is neutral to near oversold. However, medium term momentum remains constructive.

All in all, our long-standing support/resistance parameters remain unchanged: a break down through \$1.46-\$1.47 would imply a potential test of important long term support at \$1.40-\$1.42, while a rally through \$1.55 would set the stage for a challenge of long term resistance at \$1.60. The DDM cross-rate may be peaking. The recent trading range has been accompanied by deteriorating momentum. If this deterioration continues, a decisive break of \$2.60 could allow for 2.58, then 2.53-2.55. While 2.68 is still nominally possible, important resistance at 2.62 has to be monitored closely.

Japanese Yen

Fundamental View: The Japanese yen continued to strengthen against the dollar this week, moving to 108 yen/dollar. The U.S. and Japan have failed to resolve trade differences, and markets have become increasingly pessimistic regarding prospects for an agreement in time for talks between Mr. Hosokawa and Mr. Clinton. Japan's current account surplus, at \$182 billion in 1993, is far above politically acceptable levels. If measures to open Japan's domestic market to imports are unsuccessful, the burden of current account adjustment would fall on further yen appreciation. Friday's compromise between Mr. Hosokawa and the LDP on political reform legislation is another plus for the yen.

Increased political cooperation should lead to a strong fiscal stimulus programme, which would support the stock market and keep bond yields higher than otherwise. The result would be increased capital inflows from abroad. We expect the yen to strengthen further to 105 yen/dollar in 12 months.

Technical View: The Japanese yen gained 1.4 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week, and was the strongest currency of the six we most regularly monitor. At present, short term sentiment is neutral and medium term readings remain oversold. Short term momentum is upwardly biased, but medium term oscillators are only now bottoming. This evidence, plus the fact that last week's strength was enough to at least temporarily break through the five-month old downtrend channel, suggests that the underlying long term uptrend is reasserting itself. The ability to hold support at 113-114 7/8 U.S.\$ also adds substance to this possibility. The rally in recent days through 108 implies continued strength toward 105.50-106.

Fundamental View: The dollar lost ground against both the Deutschmark and the yen this week. Dollar weakness against the mark can be attributed to expectations that Fed tightening will come later than previously expected, and the view that the Bundesbank will not raise official rates at Thursday's council meeting. But we continue to expect a 50 basis point cut in German rates this quarter, and a 25 basis point rise in U.S. rates in the second quarter. As three-month German rates fall from 5.7 percent to 4.0 percent in 12 months, we expect the DM to reach DM/\$ 1.85. Yen strengthening has been due to increased pessimism regarding prospects for a U.S.-Japan trade agreement. If measures to open Japan's market to imports are unsuccessful, the burden of reducing Japan's huge current account deficit would fall on further yen appreciation. We expect the yen to strengthen to 105 JPY/\$ in 12 months in light of slow progress in correcting Japan's trade imbalance.

Technical View: The U.S. dollar was generally on the defensive during the week ended Jan. 28 as the greenback posted week-to-week losses against four of the six currencies we most regularly discuss. In the end, the dollar index lost 0.2 per cent for the period. At this point, momentum for the index appears to have peaked and sentiment is viewed as being generally overbought. These conditions, together with the inability to penetrate important resistance at 97.50-98.00, imply that an important medium term top — marking the end of the rally from last September's low — may be at hand. Thus, the medium term outlook continues to favour the currencies. Nearby support is just above 94.00, with benchmark support at 90.29.

Deutschemark

Fundamental View: The dollar fell back to DM/\$ 1.73, losing its upward momentum. Dollar weakness can be traced to the view that U.S. interest rates will not be raised as quickly as was previously expected. The resignation of Fed vice chairman David Mullins, who is considered an anti-inflation hawk, may have reinforced this sentiment. The overwhelming view from Germany is that the Bundesbank will not cut the discount rate at Thursday's council meeting. While U.S. and German monetary action may not be imminent, we continue to expect a 50 basis point cut in German rates this quarter, and a 25 basis point rise in the U.S. federal funds rate in the second quarter. News on wage and consumer price inflation in Germany continues to be surprisingly positive, and the U.S. economy appears to be have maintained strong momentum in January following fourth quarter growth at a

Technical View: The Deutschmark rallied 0.6 per cent versus the U.S. dollar last week. Short term sentiment is near overbought, but the important medium term readings remain oversold. Although short term momentum is in an uptrend, medium term oscillators are still bottoming and have not yet broken their downtrend. That could occur this week. All of this generally bolsters the argument that a currency low is being put into place. Important support remains indicated in the area of 1.755, with resistance at 1.65-1.66. The mark/yen cross moved below 63 last week to the lower end of its multi-month trading range. This potential support is important because, though not oversold, medium term momentum for the cross is evidencing signs of bottoming. Given that both individual currencies are expected to rally versus the U.S. dollar in coming weeks, this bottoming process raises the prospects for potential DM relative strength in a generally firm currency environment.

While 60 remains important support, resistance in the 65.50-66.50 range will be monitored for a potentially important breakout.

Pound Sterling

Fundamental View: The British pound backed down from its six-month high against the Deutschmark, trading at DM/GBP 2.59. This week's depreciation cannot be traced to any fundamental factors, although data on foreign exchange reserves suggest that the Bank of England may have intervened against the pound. Greater signs of economic strength—continued improvement in the labour market and evidence of buoyant consumer spending—have reduced market expectations of prospects for a cut in base rates. Concern about job security is a major factor inhibiting consumer sentiment, and improved prospects for employment should bolster confidence.

We believe base rates will be cut by 50 basis points later in the second quarter, once the impact of April 1 tax increases is assessed. But rates will decline by much less this year than in Germany, leading to pound appreciation against the DM. We are expecting a rise in the pound to DM/GBP 2.65 in three months and DM/GBP 2.70 at six- and twelve-month horizons.

If the pound rises much beyond the DM/GBP 2.70 level, the Bank of England would be pressured to cut rates to protect the competitiveness of U.K. exporters. Plenty of slack capacity

The pound was little changed against the dollar this week, trading near U.S.\$/GBP 1.49. We are forecasting pound deprecia-

Peanuts

Andy Capp

JUMBLE.

by Henri Arnold and Milla Argleton

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TAWLZ
[] [O] [] [] [] [] []

NUKKS
[] [] [] [] [] [] []


HOBLED
[] [] [] [] [] [] []

MOURUQ
[] [] [] [] [] [] []

Answer here: " [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: LOUSE ABOVE BABOON OUTLET
Answer: The French poodle who slipped his leash was called — "TOO LOOSE"



ANOTHER NAME
FOR THE BLUES
JOINT PROPRIETOR.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

I MUST TELL YOU ABOUT THIS NEW DIET I'M ON. FLO. IT'S THE BEST EVER.

YOUR DAD ENTERS OUT! MESSUS.

CAN I COME IN AND NOT FOR HER P.

SORRY, BUT NOT RIGHT NOW.

ONE OF THESE DAYS THEY MIGHT COME UP WITH A DIET TO REDUCE HER YAP.

Mutt'n'Jeff

THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO GET ALONG IN THIS WORLD! YOU'RE TOO TIMID! YOU GOTTA ACT TOUGH!

MUTT IS RIGHT! FROM NOW ON I ACTS TOUGH!

ME, I'M AFRAID OF NOBODY!! **NOBODY!!**

NOT EVEN A COP?

A COP? SHOW ME A COP AND I'LL SHOW YOU A DOPE!

I'M A COP!

I'M A DOPE!

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Studying your principles and precepts today could lead to a more fulfilled existence and remove some of the growing stress in your life. Meditate on philosophical matters and gain a clearer perspective.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) It is important that you exercise the greatest care in doing favours for partners, whether in business or personal life, be it concerning monetary or creative affairs. would be wise to handle yourself. Be very kind with loved one tonight, but not extravagant.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Getting health and appearance improved is of

TAURUS: (April 30 to May 20) A bad day for gambling on anything or taking chances. Any civic or public affairs need to be handled very carefully, too, so that you don't get hurt by the public's anger.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get tasks done quickly during the morning and then be kind to those who are helping you. However, don't use an air of bravado.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are now able to make better plans for recreation during week-ends or any spare time that you have and get hobbies perfected.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Look for the data that will assist to get along better with associates and friends in the future. Do shopping after you have studied your paper well for bargains and

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Don't neglect to buy

THE Daily Crossword by Norma Steinberg

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Ruling party joins ANC in registering for S. African polls

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The governing National Party (NP) increasing concerns that white extremists would use violence to disrupt the all-race vote.

President F.W. de Klerk's party was the fifth to register. The African National Congress, which is expected to sweep the April 26-28 vote, signed up Thursday, making it the first formerly banned opposition group to register.

Smaller parties, including the Liberal Democratic Party that was the official opposition during much of the National Party's four decades in power, have also officially committed themselves to run.

Under South African law, parties have until Saturday to register. But the government said Thursday the deadline could be pushed back, and efforts continued to get conservative blacks and whites to participate in the April vote.

The right-wing Afrikaner Volksfront, which seeks an independent white homeland, said Thursday that it would boycott the vote and work to prevent it from taking place. The Volksfront coalition claims to represent the nation's 3 million Afrikaners — the descendants of early Dutch settlers.

Ferdinand Hartzenberg, whose pro-apartheid Conservative

Party is a member of the Volksfront, said whites would rely on peaceful means to resist the vote, but said "a little bit of violence might be necessary for defensive purposes."

Right-wing whites opposed to black majority rule have threatened civil war. They are not considered a major military force, but they could be a serious threat to free, fair and peaceful elections.

A recent series of bombings in rural communities, including some that damaged ANC offices and electricity pylons, have been blamed on white extremists. Violence linked mostly to political feuds among black groups killed more than 3,000 South Africans last year.

Both the government and the ANC have said they want as many factions as possible to participate in the vote. But there seemed little hope Friday the members of the Afrikaner Volksfront would reconsider, or that black conservatives would be persuaded to participate.

Government negotiator Roelf Meyer said Thursday the government remained open to talks, but accused the Freedom Alliance of blocking agreement with new, last-minute demands.

Talks among the government, ANC and the opposition Freedom Alliance deadlocked

this week over the powers of regional governments in a new constitution.

Alliance members, including the Afrikaner Volksfront and conservative black groups such as the Inkatha Freedom Party and Bophuthatswana black homeland, want autonomous regions free of domination by the ANC.

The ANC and the government have rejected setting up any territories on the basis of race.

The Bophuthatswana government, meanwhile, announced its leader Lucas Mangope, held talks Monday with Mr. Mandela and would seek normalise relations with the ANC. No details were available, but the announcement indicated Mr. Mangope might be seeking a deal to drop his opposition to the election.

Analysts believe Mr. Mangope has little popular support in Bophuthatswana, which receives most of its budget from South Africa and could be frozen off if the ANC takes power after the election.

In a separate development, the leader of a black nationalist guerrilla group involved in attacks on whites has been killed in a car accident in Tanzania.

Officials of the militant Pan Africanist Congress

announced Thursday that Sabelo Phama, believed to be in his mid-40s, died after the car he was riding in collided with a truck near Morogoro in central Tanzania Wednesday.

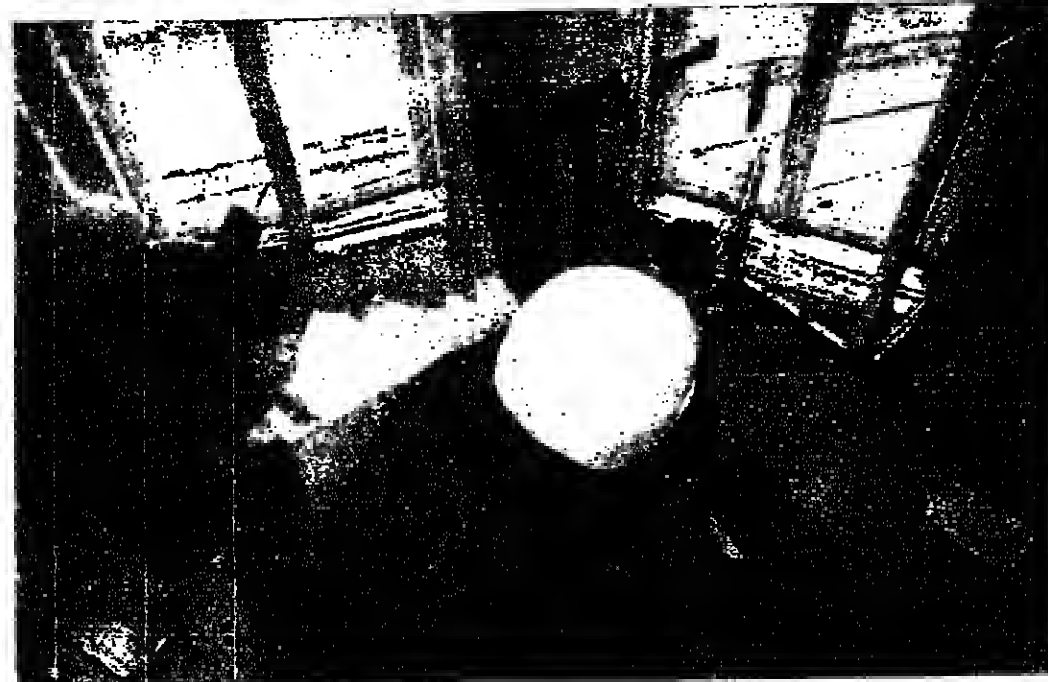
Mr. Phama was commander of the Azanian People's Liberation Army, the military wing of the PAC, which has claimed responsibility for a series of attacks on police and white civilians dating back 14 months.

The PAC wants blacks to rule South Africa and initially opposed negotiations with the white government on ending apartheid. It later joined the talks and plans to contest the nation's first all-race election in April.

Mr. Phama was travelling to Harare, Zimbabwe, in anticipation of returning to South Africa to take part in the election campaign, according to PAC officials.

Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer said the government was going to grant Mr. Phama a temporary amnesty so he could return to South Africa and negotiate an end to APFA violence.

The PAC has agreed to cease hostilities against the government, but some of its leading members protested the move and said attacks would continue.



Two French peacekeepers in Sarajevo, protect a passage against Serb snipers (AFP photo)

France sends carrier, ministers to Bosnia

PARIS (R) — France, one of the driving forces behind NATO's ultimatum to Bosnian Serbs to pull back from Sarajevo, sent an aircraft carrier to former Yugoslavia Friday while two of its top ministers left for the Bosnian capital.

A navy spokesman said the 32,000-tonne carrier Foch, carrying some 20 Super-Étendard fighter-bombers which could be used to strike Serb artillery around Sarajevo, was to sail at 13:00 GMT from the Mediterranean port of Toulon.

The 2,600-man naval group, including the missile-firing frigate Suffren and the supply ship La Mouette, could reach the coast of ex-Yugoslavia within 48 hours, the spokesman said.

Underlining Paris' determination to force a withdrawal of heavy weapons from around Sarajevo, Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Defence Minister Francois Leotard were expected in the Bosnian capital, scene of an outbreak of fighting overnight despite a ceasefire agreement.

In a radio interview from the Croatian capital Zagreb, first leg of a visit to ex-Yugoslavia to press for peace and underline Western resolve, Mr. Juppe

dismissed defiant statements by Bosnian Serb leaders as "oratory gesticulations."

He said the fresh outbreak of shelling underlined the need for NATO's ultimatum to Bosnian Serbs to pull back their heavy artillery at least 20 kms (12 miles) from Sarajevo within 10 days or face air strikes.

The countdown began at 2400 GMT Thursday.

"That shooting demonstrates why the ultimatum remains more necessary than ever," Mr. Juppe told Europe 1 Radio.

"Once again, one realises ceasefires are just scraps of paper and no tangible results will be obtained unless heavy weapons are withdrawn or placed under the responsibility of the United Nations," Juppe said.

Some of the 2,000 French peacekeepers in Sarajevo took position Thursday between Bosnian Serb and Muslim-led Bosnian government forces to enforce the ceasefire and prepare for a Serb pullout. France has some 6,000 soldiers in former Yugoslavia, including 4,000 in Bosnia.

Mr. Juppe, to be joined by Mr. Leotard later in Sarajevo, said he would insist on the

need for a negotiated peace settlement. He told reporters arriving in Zagreb Thursday he would tell warring parties that the threat of air strikes did not mean a proposed peace plan was dead.

Mr. Juppe said that despite some statements rejecting the ultimatum, the Bosnian Serbs realised the threat was in earnest.

"On one hand you have oratory gesticulations but on the other, I believe the Bosnian Serbs are now conscious of the dangers facing them. The fact they are continuing peace talks in Geneva is the best demonstration," he said.

He said Russia's first reaction was not encouraging. "But I do not believe the Russians have the means to paralyse the U.N. and we will try to convince them that they too must join efforts to bring about peace," he added.

Russia set the stage for a confrontation with the West by calling for a meeting of the U.N. Security Council to discuss how to remove heavy weapons from around Sarajevo. Washington has said there was no need for a new U.N. meeting.

Former head of IRA splinter group slain

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — A gunman shot and killed the former head of an Irish Republican Army (IRA) splinter group, a man who once claimed he had killed 30 people.

Police suspected internal feuding was behind the slaying of Dominic McGlinchey, the former head of the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA), a one-time immediately claimed responsibility.

Mr. McGlinchey was killed late Thursday in Drogheda, on Ireland's east coast, halfway between Dublin and the border

with Northern Ireland, police said Friday. The killers escaped.

The 40-year-old died as he predicted he would — by assassins' bullets. He survived an assassination attempt on June 12, but was shot in both hands as he tried to protect himself and a bullet struck his skull.

Police Superintendent Patrick O'Boyle said an initial autopsy found two gunmen pumped at least 10 bullets into Mr. McGlinchey after dragging him from a telephone booth. They were driven away by a third man.

Mr. McGlinchey was gunned down in a residential area shortly after he and one of his sons visited a fish and chip shop.

Mr. McGlinchey joined the IRA's fight against British rule in Northern Ireland in 1971 and took part in attacks on security forces. He later fell out with the IRA and became leader of the INLA, which was formed in 1972.

On his release from prison last year after serving seven years for firearms offenses, Mr. McGlinchey said he had given up INLA activity.

Groups take Chiapas grievances to OAS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mexico's government and military are continuing to create a climate of intimidation and to violate the constitution and laws in dealing with the rebellion in Chiapas state, human rights groups charged Thursday at an Organisation of American States (OAS) panel.

Human rights abuses by the army persist, despite a ceasefire declared by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's central government two weeks after the outbreak of the new year's rebellion in the south border state, according to a document

of grievances submitted to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission.

"In our view, this conflict is not yet over, it is not a true ceasefire," Marieclaire Acosta, president of the non-government Mexican Commission for the Promotion and Defence of Human Rights, told reporters.

"We're afraid of a massive onslaught against the population in violation of human rights," if efforts to resolve the conflict fail, she said.

Petitions covering about 200 alleged human rights violations

are being readied for the commission said Ms. Acosta, who represented her own and human rights centres named for the late Miguel Agustín Pro and the late Fray Francisco de Victoria.

The petitions cover violent raids of private homes, arbitrary detentions, torture, humiliation, extra-judiciary executions and forced disappearances, she said, most of them perpetrated by members of the Mexican army in coordination with the national attorney general's office and other civil authorities.

S. Korea, U.S. back more dialogue over North's nuclear inspection row

SEOUL (R) — South Korea and the United States have agreed to continue efforts for a peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue, news reports Friday quoted Seoul's Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo as saying in Washington.

"Our two countries decided to exert all available efforts to settle the nuclear question through dialogue until the board of governors' meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) opens (on Feb. 21)," Mr. Han said Thursday, according to a report by South Korea's Yonhap News Agency.

Mr. Han was in Washington to discuss ways to resolve the long-running impasse over North Korea's nuclear programme.

He spoke to South Korean journalists after talks with U.S. Vice President Al Gore and National Security Advisor Anthony Lake, Yonhap's report said.

Mr. Han was scheduled to meet Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Defence Secretary William Perry and other senior U.S. officials Friday to discuss the North's programme, which the West fears is for developing nuclear arms.

Mr. Han said that while some in the United States took a hardline approach to the nuclear question "the U.S. administration's official policy direction now is to carry on with dialogue."

Asked about the possibility of the United States and North Korea resuming stalled high-level talks to settle the nuclear issue, Mr. Han said there were no immediate plans to do so. Yonhap said.

At a security meeting in Seoul Tuesday, President Kim Young-Sam said South Korea would not abandon efforts to resolve the nuclear issue peacefully even if Pyongyang was referred to the United Nations for possible sanctions.

Seoul officials said Mr. Han, who left for Washington Wednesday a week ahead of schedule, and the United States would decide on its course of action to try to persuade North Korea to open its nuclear sites to IAEA inspection.

Seoul officials expect the IAEA to declare Pyongyang in breach of a nuclear safeguards pact unless it agrees to open its sites to inspections by Feb. 21. The IAEA would then refer North Korea to the Security Council.

North Korea issued a stream of hostile statements last week and said there was "no immediate prospect" of letting the IAEA conduct unconditional inspections of its nuclear sites.

It has warned it would regard international sanctions as an act of war and finally renounce the non-proliferation treaty which the IAEA is pledged to safeguard through regular inspections.

Gaidar urges creation of reformist party

MOSCOW (AP) — Yegor Gaidar, the champion of Russia's market reforms, said he wants to create a new political party to avoid a repeat of the defeat of reformers in December's legislative elections.

Speaking to about two dozen politicians and cultural leaders, Mr. Gaidar said reformers need a well-oiled campaign machine to succeed in the 1996 presidential race.

"I am convinced that we need stronger forms of integration. We need a normal mechanism for advertising our views," he said.

Mr. Gaidar was the principal architect of the free-market changes that began in early 1992. He ran in the Dec. 12 elections as head of Russia's Choice, a loose alliance that supported radical reforms.

His group and other reformers suffered an unexpected defeat at the hands of Communists and extreme nationalists who rode a wave of popular discontent with the painful reforms.

Ultrarationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party was the top vote-getter, capturing 23 per cent of the ballots. Russia's Choice failed to win a majority in the new parliament.

"Russia's Choice was too loose a bloc," Mr. Gaidar said, explaining the defeat. "We did not have a polished campaign mechanism. We underestimated Zhirinovskiy, counting that he would get only 6 per cent."

Red Cross avoids Kashmir rights row — official

NEW DELHI (R) — A Red Cross team allowed into India's strife-torn Kashmir will confine itself to aid and not touch on alleged human-rights abuses, an official of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Friday.

"We do not want to be involved with any politics," said Mianrad Studer, ICRC's Delhi-based official.

"Our mandate is clearly to provide humanitarian relief. We do not have the same approach as human-rights groups."

India Thursday asked the visiting ICRC director general for the Far East, Jean Michel Monod, to send a team to the Himalayan state — a rare move for a government which has refused nearly all visits to the region by international organisations.

Approval for the ICRC tour follows India's decision to allow four European ambassadors to visit Kashmir early this week and meet militant organisations.

No human-rights groups have been allowed in. Security forces battling a four-year-old separatist uprising in Kashmir, the only Muslim majority state in mainly Hindu India, have

often been accused of widespread human-rights violations, including rape and torture.

India dismisses the allegations, voiced most loudly by neighbouring arch-enemy Pakistan. But New Delhi recently set up a national human rights commission to monitor what it says are stray cases of abuse.

The Press trust of India quoted Mr. Monod Thursday as saying the ICRC's new role in Kashmir would involve briefing security forces on international human-rights laws.

"That is not correct," Mr. Studer said. "We have discussed the issue of humanitarian relief with the local police, which is not the same thing as human rights."

Diplomats said India's move to allow the ICRC into Kashmir had raised expectations of further openness in the region, where hospital and police sources say more than 15,000 people have been killed in the last four years.

"It means our efforts are beginning to take effect," said Pakistani diplomat Zamir Akram.

The strike, the latest of many during a four-year rebellion against Indian rule, brought life to a virtual standstill.

Fridays are usually quiet, but the only traffic moving on the streets of most towns belonged to Indian security forces as few people left their homes, residents said.

Strikes are often marked by militant attacks on the security forces, but there were no immediate reports of major violence.

Mr. Bhat, the founder of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), was hanged 10 years ago in Delhi's Tihar Jail after being convicted of killing an intelligence official.

He has become a major icon for the many militant groups fighting India, whether, like the JKLF they favour a reunited and independent Kashmir or seek union with Pakistan.

Police and hospitals have reported more than 15,000 deaths in the rebellion, which has brought long antagonistic relations between India and Pakistan, which rules one-third of the Himalayan region, to a new low.

Controversial Pavarotti concert is a sellout

MANILA (R) — A controversial concert by Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti in Manila, a sellout despite protests over expensive ticket prices, organisers said Friday. The concert, scheduled for March 18, sparked a controversy after organisers said tickets would go for as high as 25,000 pesos (\$910) apiece for corporate sponsors. The minimum daily wage in the Philippines is just over \$6. Senators criticised the show as ostentatious and urged President Fidel Ramos to arrest any government official who paid that much to attend the concert. The furor, which organisers said made Pavarotti's camp a little apprehensive, died down after it was explained the high-priced tickets would be sold to corporate sponsors. "I appeal to everyone not to make an issue out of this," said Manila socialite Rose Marie Arenas, who is chairing the organising committee. Producers declined to say how much they would pay Pavarotti for the concert, but said it would be less than the \$1 million he got for a show in Singapore last year.

Grand jury calls witnesses in Jackson case

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) — Michael Jackson's iron-fisted vice president for MJJ Productions faced a grand jury's questions in a child molestation investigation that focuses on the entertainer. Norma Staikos didn't speak to reporters prior to appearing before the 19-member grand jury panel. Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney Thomas Snedden Jr. When asked for details on the grand jury hearing, Mr. Hodgman said, "no comment." Ms. Staikos ran the singer's personal schedule and was reported to be a hard-nosed executive for Jackson's entertainment company, based in Westwood, she reportedly got along with few in the Jackson camp. The grand jury was expected to meet through Thursday and reconvene in two weeks, anonymous sources told "The Associated Press." Actor Marlon Brando's adult son, Mike, was the first witness called to testify before the grand jury. Brando, who has worked for Jackson as a bodyguard and valet, met with the panel behind closed doors Wednesday for 3½ hours. He ignored questions from a large crowd of reporters as he entered and left the chambers. An unidentified man later met with the grand jury for about 15 minutes before he and jurors went home for the day. The hearing follows months of investigation into Jackson by Santa Barbara and Los Angeles County authorities. Jackson's accuser, now 14, settled a civil suit against the entertainer last month for an undetermined sum, but sources have said \$15 million was paid. Jackson denies the allegations and said the settlement was not an admission of guilt, but the criminal investigation lives on. The settlement was thought to severely diminish the state's case in the child molestation probe because, in California, a victim of sexual abuse can't be forced to testify against his or her will.

Indian poultry fails Kentucky fried chicken test

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian poultry just isn't right for Kentucky Fried Chicken. The U.S.-based fast food chain has been forced to delay its entry into India because it cannot find the right sort of chickens. The Pioneer Daily said. The company, part of the PepsiCo food giant, normally uses maize-fed chickens and its food technologists were not satisfied with smaller Indian varieties, the paper said. It was now weighing two options — using local chickens but dropping the trademark Kentucky Fried label, or trying to persuade Indian farmers to raise plumper, maize-fed birds. Kentucky Fried Chicken won government permission last year to set up in India under sweeping reforms to liberalise the country's economy and encourage foreign investment. The Pioneer said it had planned to open its first outlet in the capital Delhi in August this year, but would now have to postpone the launch. Company scientists were also experimenting with Vegetarian fast food to meet demand in a country where religion bars many people from eating meat, the paper added.

Agenor stuns Stich in Milan tournament

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Unseeded Ronald Agenor of Haiti stunned number one seed Michael Stich Thursday in the first major upset of the \$800,000 Muratti Time indoor tennis tournament.

The 29-year-old Agenor defeated the German, the number three ranked player in the world, 6-2, 6-7, (3-7), 6-3.

Stich saved three match balls with his big serve in the second set tie breaker, the only time he seemed to come alive in the match.

Agenor, ranked number 55, came right back in the third set and quickly won the match.

"I didn't feel well, I don't know what it is but I'm not well," Stich said. "I didn't have any confidence with my shots."

Karel Novacek of the Czech Republic, seeded eighth, fought hard to beat crowd favourite

Henri Lecote of France in three sets, 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (7-2).

Defending champion and three-time tournament winner Boris Becker advanced to the quarterfinals by defeating Amos Mansdorf of Israel 6-3 (3-6), 6-3.

Becker, seeded fifth, meets France's Cedric Pioline Friday.

Other second-round action saw second-seeded Sergi Bruguera of Spain, the French Open champion, make short work of Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-4, and Australia's Willy Masur down Nicklas Kulti of Sweden, 6-3, 6-2.

In a late Thursday match, Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia defeated Australia's Jason Stoltenberg 6-3, 6-2.

The Milano tournament, which is part of the ATP tour, awards a top prize of \$112,500.

Mavs hit break with 1st consecutive wins

DALLAS (R) — The woeful Dallas Mavericks hit the National Basketball Association (NBA) All-Star break with their first winning streak of the season — two in a row.

Dong Smith had eight of his 14 points during a key third-quarter run and Jamal Mashburn scored 16 points as the Mavericks beat the Washington Bullets 87-77 late Thursday for their first back-to-back wins since last April.

The Mavericks, who came off a 108-105 overtime victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves, raised their miserable record to 6-42 with only their second win of the season over a team other than the Wolves.

The Mavericks held a 46-35 lead at the half and blew the game open with a 10-5 run at the start of the third quarter.

Pat Lever had a season-high nine steals for Dallas, which set a team record with 19 steals.

In Atlanta, Dominique Wilkins moved into 10th place on the all-time NBA scoring list as he scored 33 points to lead the Hawks to a 114-98 victory over the Miami Heat.

Wilkins passed Hall of Famer and former Los Angeles Lakers great Elgin Baylor to reach the NBA's top 10 list.

Wilkins needed 11 points to pass Baylor and scored 16 in the first quarter.

In New York, Latrel Sprewell scored a career-high 61 points to lead the Golden State Warriors to a 113-105 victory over the Knicks.

The Warriors closed the third period on a 12-4 run and Sprewell scored eight straight points early in the fourth quarter to give Golden State a 90-82 lead.

A 10-0 Golden State run gave the Warriors a commanding 100-86 lead with 5:12 left in the fourth quarter.

In San Antonio, David Robinson scored nine of his 29 points over the final 1:40 to lift

the Spurs to a 94-87 victory over the Denver Nuggets.

The red hot Spurs hit the All-Star break on a season-high nine-game winning streak.

Robinson nailed five free throws and two field goals after Denver cut a 13-point deficit to six at 85-79.

In Detroit, Hakeem Olajuwon had 23 points and a season-high 20 rebounds to power the Houston Rockets to their first win ever at the Palace of Auburn Hills, a 104-81 rout of the Pistons.

Scott Brooks shot 6-for-7 from the field to add 15 points for the Rockets, who have won three out of their last four games. Olajuwon had 19 of his 28 in the first half to stake the Rockets to a 63-44 halftime lead.

In Milwaukee, Scottie Pippen had 23 points and Steve Kerr added 15 to pace the Chicago Bulls to a 97-80 triumph over the Bucks.

The Bulls finished a six-game road trip at 5-1 as Chicago's bench outscored Milwaukee's reserves 41-9.

Todd Day had 26 points and Frank Brickowski chipped in with 17 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Bucks, who have lost seven of their last nine games.

In Los Angeles, Lionel Simmons had 20 of his 33 points in the first half to help the Sacramento Kings snap a nine-game road losing streak with a 103-84 win over the Lakers.

The Kings are 3-0 against the Lakers this season and will win the season series for the first time since 1975.

Sacramento posted back-to-back wins for the first time in nearly a month and won for only the third time in its last 13 games.

Nick van Exel had 17 points and Elden Campbell chipped in with 15 for the Lakers, who had their season-high four-game winning streak snapped.



U.S. skater Nancy Kerrigan walks in the Olympic center for her registration upon arriving in Hamar Thursday (AFP)

Harding saga distracting team

LILLEHAMMER (R) — The Tonya Harding saga is distracting her American teammates as they train for the Lillehammer Games.

U.S. Olympic chiefs admitted Friday.

But as officials held a news conference in Lillehammer, Harding's big rival Nancy Kerrigan, looking radiant despite intense media attention, found one place to escape the pressure — practising on the ice at the Olympic rink in Hamar, 60 kilometres south.

Coach Evi Snovold explained: "She has more space out on the ice than anywhere else. She might

not want to come off."

But he added: "You live with what happens. But it is not the best of all worlds."

U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) Executive Director Harvey Schiller told reporters in Lillehammer the hopes of other athletes on the 155-strong American team were being overshadowed by the Harding case.

"It is becoming a distraction," Schiller said. "It's fair to say that the focus has changed from where it should be — that the 100-plus athletes that are here to compete can be the best they can be."

Norwegian police face toughest challenge unarmed

LILLEHAMMER (R) — Norwegian police have set up a bodyguard unit and an anti-terrorist force for the Winter Olympics, but they will not be wearing firearms for their highest security challenge.

"Norwegian police are traditionally unarmed and I hope this will continue during and after the games," Police Commissioner Arne Husse, in charge of security for the 16-day Olympics that start Saturday, told a news conference.

Security at Lillehammer, a town of about 20,000 people, 160 kilometres north of Oslo, will be far less apparent to visitors than at the 1992 Barcelona summer Olympics where security forces carried submachineguns and had tanks in reserve.

The 2,770-strong force — a third of all Norwegian police — has trained for five years to cope with possible terrorist attacks, assassination attempts and assaults on athletes.

The unit has 400 patrol cars, five helicopters, a fleet of snowmobiles and nearly 50 bomb-sniffing or rescue dogs.

High-tech communications equipment and a computer network have been acquired especially for the security effort, which carries an overall price of 330 million crowns (\$47 million). "There are operational plans to quickly arm the police force if necessary. I'm convinced we can handle a critical situation just as well as

if we routinely carried arms," Husse said.

His operation involves international intelligence cooperation, tighter border controls, security clearance for the 40,000 people involved in the games and setting up 20 kilometres of fences and 300 surveillance cameras.

An anti-terrorist force has been established and a special unit has been trained to protect VIP visitors such as Norwegian King Harald V, U.S. first lady Hillary Clinton and International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch.

Gerhard Heiberg, president of the Lillehammer organising committee, has said security was stepped up after Norway helped to broker the first peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), signed last September.

Lillehammer's worst nightmare is a possible attack by opponents of the accord in what Heiberg has called "another Munich '72," in reference to the Arab guerrillas who killed 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics.

Precautions extend to the sky with an air-traffic control zone imposed over Lillehammer to prevent private planes or parachutists stealing the Olympic limelight with spectacular protests or demonstrations.

Environmentally correct Olympics to open in controversy Saturday

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (AP) — Preaching peace and "respect for life on earth," the environmentally correct Lillehammer Games open Saturday overshadowed by distant war in Bosnia and a figure skating scandal worthy of an Ibsen drama.

Coming just two years after Albertville, the Lillehammer Olympics will allow such veteran stars as slalom ace Alberto Tomba of Italy, figure skater Viktor Petrenko of the Ukraine, cross-country skier Vegard Ulvang of Norway and speed skater Bonnie Blair of the United States a chance to reprise their 1992 golden performances.

And two figure-skating gold medalists from the 1988 Calgary Games — Katarina Witt of Germany and Brian Boitano of the United States — are attempting comebacks along with Britain's Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, the electrifying dance champions of the 1984 games.

They will be among nearly 2,000 athletes from a record 69 countries competing in the 17th winter games. They have assembled on the fringes of this folksy town of 23,000 for 16 days of skiing, skating and sledding.

Their quest is for 61 gold medals. Super stars will reap millions in commercial endorsements.

The first three gold medals are to be awarded Sunday, starting with women's cross-country skiing. Russia's Lyubov Egorova is favoured to

defend her 15-kilometre freestyle title. Sunday's other medal events are the men's downhill and 5,000-metre speedskate.

The 1994 medal race is shaping up as a contest between Germany, host Norway, Russia and Austria. Germany with 26, the defunct unified team with 23 and Norway with 20 were the top three medal winners at Albertville.

The Norwegian organisers have spent 7.3 billion kroner (\$1 billion) on environmentally friendly arenas, race courses and other Olympic facilities. These include an ice hockey rink blasted out of a stone mountain, parallel ski jumps that follow the contours of the landscape and a bob-luge ice chute that twists through a carefully protected forest. Partially offsetting the costs are \$355 million in revenue, including \$295 million from the American television network CBS.

Norway's King Harald will officially open the games before 34,000 spectators in the Lysgaardsbakken ski jumping arena and a worldwide television audience estimated at 1 billion. U.S. first lady Hillary Clinton and royalty from Sweden, Denmark and Spain are expected to be in the stands. Britain's Princess Anne is to attend as her country's IOC representative. Monaco's Prince Albert is returning as a bobbed competitor.

Mindful of Norway's sensitive role in fostering an accord between Israel and the Pales-

tine Liberation Organisation (PLO), an Olympic force of 2,770 police officers and 3,500 soldiers are guarding against retaliation by Middle Eastern hard liners. Possible anti-whaling protesters are also a concern. Norway has defied an international ban on whaling.

One worry the organisers do not have is a lack of snow. More than 4 feet (1.3 metres) blanket the countryside around Lillehammer.

Trying — symbolically, at least — to focus world attention on glory rather than greed, the organisers have built the opening ceremony around a Norse allegory of goodness overcoming evil. Gentle sprites known as the "Vetter," hesitantly emerge from the underworld to remind frail humanity of its "responsibility for protecting the environment" and life on earth.

On the eve of the ceremony, human frailty continued to hog centre stage in Lillehammer.

The U.S. Olympic Committee was wrapped in a legal battle with Tonya Harding. The figure skater filed a \$25 million lawsuit in the United States to block the USOC from holding a hearing in Norway next Tuesday that could banish Harding from the games.

Harding's ex-husband, Jeff Gillooly, has confessed to a role in the Jan. 6 elubbing attack on skater Nancy Kerrigan, a top contender for Olympic gold. Harding has denied Gillooly's allegation that she

had given prior approval to the attack, but admitted finding out about the plot afterward and initially keeping silent.

Norwegians, used to the dark dramas of Henrik Ibsen, can relate to a story of a strong-willed woman faced with a tragedy of her own making.

From war-torn Bosnia, meanwhile, a word that the Bosnian Serbs were ready to pull back their siege guns from the hills overlooking Sarajevo, the devastated site of the 1984 winter games. But Serb compliance with a U.N.-brokered agreement would have more to do with a NATO ultimatum and bombing threat, than with a call by for an "Olympic truce" by Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee.

Nine Bosnian athletes managed to escape from besieged Sarajevo to make it to Lillehammer for the games.

Athletes of the former Soviet Union, who competed as the unified team in the French Alps two years ago, are marching under 12 separate national banners at Lillehammer. And the Czech republic and Slovakia are competing as separate countries for the first time.

On Saturday, Olympic athletic competition begins four hours before Norway's Crown Prince Haakon ignites the Olympic flame. Czechoslovakia, bronze medalist in Albertville, faces off against Finland in Lillehammer's Haakon ice hockey hall.

Plague may mark Lillehammer killing by Israeli hit-squad

LILLEHAMMER (R) — Lillehammer's mayor suggested Friday that a plague should mark the town's first contact with the Olympics — on the spot where an Israeli hit-squad shot dead an innocent Arab waiter two decades ago.

"For the future I think it is important to show where the shooting took place," Audun Tron told Reuters on the eve of the opening of the Lillehammer Games. "It's an important part of Lillehammer's history."

In 1973, Israeli agents shot dead a Moroccan waiter in Lillehammer, mistaking him for a leader of the Arab guerrilla group that killed 11 Israeli athletes at the summer Olympics in Munich the year before.

Five people were jailed in connection with the murder of Ahmed Bouchiki outside a block of flats on the eastern side of the sleepy lakeside town, but the Israeli ringleaders went free.

Stray bullets left marks on the walls, becoming a grisly tourist attraction in Lillehammer.

"I think a small plague should be put up, it would explain that the killing took place here and tell the story of what happened," Tron said. The block has since been renovated, covering the bullet marks, he said.

Last year, the former chief of Israeli military intelligence acknowledged that Mossad was behind the killing, carried out as part of a systematic campaign of assassinations of Palestinian guerrilla leaders in the 1970s.

Aharon Yariv, a retired general, said former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir was fully informed of the decisions and that Israel took extra care after the Lillehammer killing to ensure correct identification of targets.

Bouchiki was gunned down when he got off the bus with his wife, Toril Larsen, after the couple returned from a trip to the cinema.

Last year Norway hosted 14 rounds of secret peace talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to broker the historic accord on limited Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
8 TAWARUJ
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TOO MANY FINESSES

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 6 4
♥ 10 6
♦ 3 10 6 2
♣ J 9

WEST
♠ K 9 2
♥ 8 5 4
♦ Q 9 7 4
♣ A Q 10

EAST
♠ K 9 2
♥ K 9
♦ Q 8 5
♣ 6 7 6 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 10
♥ A Q 7 3 2
♦ A K 3
♣ K 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 7 Pass
4 4 Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠
Some hands offer sure-trick lines for your contract. More often than not, though, you will have to sift through several options. As declarer, your task is to select the best of the lot and hope that luck smiles on your choice.

North-South reached four spades as a result of a transfer sequence. With a 5-4-2-2 shape and little strength, North preferred to play in

spades rather than no trump. With an excellent two-ace trump opening bid and fine spade support, South ventured to game. Even though North had little of value, the contract held play.

West led a trump and declarer judged well to play the jack from dummy. East made the correct technical play of withholding the king and declarer had several ways to proceed. Since it was unlikely on this auction that West was leading away from the king of trumps, South opted to repeat the spade finesse, then cashed the ace to drop the king and exhaust all hands except dummy of trumps.

Next, declarer played off the ace and king of diamonds, attempting to fell the queen. When that did not work, declarer continued with a diamond and got a break—West was the defender who held the queen of diamonds. In with that card, West had a choice of losing options. A diamond would give dummy an entry for a heart finesse; a heart would be into declarer's tenace; and a club would be up to the king. No matter how West defended, declarer was assured of a 10th trick.

North-South reached four spades as a result of a transfer sequence. With a 5-4-2-2 shape and little strength, North preferred to play in

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THANKS

From: Ibrahim Al Rabadhi

President of the French Universities and Colleges Alumni Club

After I was elected president of the club Friday Feb. 11, I would like to express my thanks and deepest feelings of gratitude to my colleagues in the administrative and general committees over the confidence they showed in me. I pledge to them that I will always be up to their expectations. May God Almighty grant us luck in serving beloved Jordan under His Majesty King Hussein.



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T O D A Y	Cinema	Tel.: 634144	Cinema	Tel.: 699238	Cinema	Tel.: 677420	Cinema	Tel.: 675573	Cinema	Tel.: 625153
	PHILADELPHIA	Moira Kelly — in The Cutting Edge Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 Special show for children on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. Bugs Bunny Film	PLAZA	Mahmoud Hamideh/Laila Alawi in OBEDIENCE WARNING Arabic Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD	CONCORD "1" DOC HOLLYWOOD Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" FALLING DOWN Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:15 Arabic Play "Hi America" at 8:30	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	presents a play entitled: AL Iim Nuron A popular political comedy Actors: Abder Jassa, Daoud Jalal, Hassan Al Sheer, Fued Shomah in addition to other comedians Every night at 8:15 Tickets are sold all day	Nabil & Hishari's AHLAN THEATRE Nabil and Hisham Theatre presents Ahlam Arab Summit Conference (play) daily at 8:30 p.m. Theatre is closed Mondays and Tuesdays	

NEWS IN BRIEF

President Saddam's son-in-law in hospital

AMMAN (AP) — Iraqi Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Al Mawdudi, son-in-law of President Saddam Hussein, has been admitted to a Jordanian military hospital for medical treatment, sources said Friday. Gen. Kamel was admitted to King Hussein Centre in Amman on Thursday, according to a senior Arab diplomat and a hospital physician, both speaking on condition of anonymity. "He is in a good condition," said the physician, without elaborating. The Iraqi embassy declined comment. In his early 40s and married to the Iraqi president's eldest daughter Ragha, Gen. Kamel is a highly influential member of the Iraqi leadership. During much of the 1980-88 Iraq-Iraq war, Gen. Kamel was minister for industry and military industrialisation and oversaw the development, much of it secret, of Iraq's burgeoning arms industry. After a short-lived stint as defence minister after the 1991 Gulf war, Gen. Kamel was appointed in May 1992 to head a commission established to supervise the conversion of military industries to civilian use under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire. The King Hussein Medical Centre, with some of the best medical facilities in the country, is restricted to the Jordanian military. However, several Arab officials and citizens have been treated there in recent years.

8 Pakistanis released from Iraq

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Eight Pakistanis jailed in Iraq flew home as free men Friday, completing a successful mercy mission by Asif Ali Zardari, husband of Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Mr. Zardari took 11 tonnes of medicine to Iraq on Wednesday and met with high-ranking officials in Baghdad to secure the release of the Pakistanis, some of whom had been held for more than a year. Ms. Bhutto met her husband and the eight men when they arrived in Pakistan on Friday night at an air force base in Islamabad. "It is a happy occasion to have succeeded in the release of co-Pakistanis," she told an impromptu news conference. The eight Pakistanis included two military officers who allegedly strayed into Iraq while on a mine-clearing operation in northern Kuwait in March 1993. A third Pakistani was working with a Kuwaiti construction firm when he was picked up along the Iraq-Kuwait border in August 1992. The other five Pakistanis were illegally in Iraq, where they were seeking work, officials said. Mr. Zardari said the Iraqis had specifically requested the medicine, and the Pakistanis received permission from the United Nations to deliver the aid. Mr. Zardari did not meet Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, but he said he passed on a message to the president from Ms. Bhutto via other Iraqi officials.

Yeltsin waited by phone for Clinton

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin waited an hour and a half for U.S. leader Bill Clinton to get through to him by telephone on Thursday and then gave up, a Kremlin aide said on Friday. He waited "for as long as the rules of decency require," aide Viktor Ilyushin told Interfax news agency to explain the mystery of why the American president could not hook up with the Kremlin leader. Mr. Clinton said on Thursday he had been trying to reach Mr. Yeltsin since Wednesday to discuss NATO's decision to set a deadline for Bosnia Serbs to withdraw heavy guns from around Sarajevo or face air strikes. The decision angered Russia, which has strong historic links with Serbia and the Serbs. Mr. Clinton's failure to get through led to speculation that the Kremlin leader was snubbing him. Mr. Ilyushin implied that this was not so, though he offered no technical explanation of why the phone call had not come through. "This is the first time such a thing has happened in our experience," he said.

Fire damages Smolensk nuclear plant

MOSCOW (AP) — A fire at a Chernobyl-type nuclear power plant in the Russian city of Smolensk briefly cut electricity to the neighboring country of Belarus, but no one was injured and no radiation was released, officials said Friday. The fire Thursday night in a transformer outside the reactor complex did not force the plant to shut down. It was extinguished within 30 minutes, said Grigory Kurov, spokesman for the Ministry of Atomic Energy. Belarus has other sources of power and did not suffer widespread blackouts or other problems from the fire 325 kilometres west of Moscow. The Smolensk plant, which went into operation in the 1980s, has three RBMK reactors, the same kind that exploded and burned at Ukraine's Chernobyl plant in 1986, the worst nuclear power accident in history.

'German soccer manager double agent'

BONN (R) — The manager of German soccer league champions Werder Bremen admitted in a newspaper on Friday he had been a double agent for West Germany and the Soviet KGB. Willi Lemke, regarded as Germany's top manager for taking Bremen out of the red and making it one of the league's richest clubs, said he became a spy of a "yearning for adventure, vanity, curiosity and duty to my country." Mr. Lemke's spying career began at the age of 24, when as a young left-leaning student in 1970 he was won and dined by the Soviet vice-consul in pre-unification East Germany. Mr. Lemke was asked to work for the KGB. But he immediately informed the office for the protection of the constitution (BFV) — West Germany's domestic intelligence agency — and was told to find out what the Russians wanted. "It was cold war. It was exciting," Mr. Lemke told Bild. Asked why the Soviets were interested in him, he replied: "I stood pretty far to the left of the student movement in those days, a peace activist, against nuclear weapons." Mr. Lemke, now 47 and manager of Werder Bremen since 1981, was active in the centre-left Social Democratic Party (SPD). The KGB asked him about SPD leaders and wanted their telephone numbers. He said he gave the 300 marks (\$170) he was paid whenever he met his Soviet spy master to the BFV — but received 800 marks (\$460) a month from them in return until he broke off contact with the KGB in 1975 on entering politics with the SPD. "I never had the impression I was hurting anybody," he said.

Children with guns in Gaza is winner

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Canadian photographer Larry Towell's picture of Gaza Strip children holding pistols was Friday named the world press photo of the year for 1993. The black and white photo, titled "Children of the Gaza Strip," was taken in May for Magnum Photos. The winning photo is part of a picture story on Gaza and East Jerusalem which also scooped first prize in the general news stories category. This year's 15 winning images were chosen from 22,775 photos by 2,429 photographers from 93 countries. The spot news photo winner taken by Swapna Parash of India is titled "Earthquake in Latur." The colour photo taken for the Black Star agency shows women wailing in grief in the aftermath of the disaster. An honourable Mention was given to Paul Watson of the Toronto Star for his colour photo "U.S. soldier slain, Mogadishu," which was distributed worldwide by the Associated Press. Spot news story category was won by the colour photo "Moscow uprising, October," taken by Black Star photographer Christopher Morris of the United States for Time magazine.

Bosnian refugees arrive in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Thirty eight refugees rescued from war-torn Sarajevo arrived in Israel Friday, including a Muslim family given Israeli citizenship for sheltering Jews during World War II. Greeting them at Ben Gurion international airport, Immigration Absorption Minister Yair Tsaaban said the Bosnian bloodshed was "a direct warning of what could happen in our area if you don't have peace." Mr. Tsaaban also accused world nations of "standing by paralysed, not knowing what to do to stop the bloodshed." In Bosnia, the refugees were bused out of Sarajevo by the joint Distribution Committee, a Jewish charity group, the day of the Feb. 5 shelling attack that killed 68 people in a marketplace.

Mubarak murder attempt reported

CAIRO (AP) — Security authorities foiled an extremist plot to assassinate President Hosni Mubarak by setting off explosives last November, an opposition Egyptian newspaper disclosed Friday.

Al Shaab, newspaper of the Islamic-oriented Labour Party, said nine suspects are being tried in secret by a military court for the attempt including two who are being tried in absentia.

They are accused of installing explosives at Sidi Barrani, a military airport in northwestern Egypt, shortly before Mr. Mubarak was to arrive. He stopped there en route to a Nov. 4 meeting with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi at Sidi Barrani on the nearby Libyan border.

According to sources, military intelligence officers discovered the plot. One source said the charge sheet does not mention Mr. Mubarak by name but calls the "an assassination attempt against an important figure visiting Sidi Barrani."

Government officials do not disclose assassination plots against Mr. Mubarak to avoid the appearance of undue extremist influence.

Military sources told the Associated Press the suspects are eight army conscripts and a junior officer. One said the government has heightened its supervision of army ranks by intelligence services to prevent extremist infiltration.

An earlier plot against Mr. Mubarak reported by opposition newspapers also involved army conscripts. An army lieutenant and a sergeant were among five extremists executed for killing Mr. Mubarak's predecessor, Anwar Sadat, in 1981.

Over the past two years, more than 300 people have died in attacks by radicals out to bring down the secular government and in violent exchanges between them and police.

Al Shaab reported that police inadvertently killed one of the two fugitive defendants in a Feb. 1 raid on an extremist hideout at the poor Cairo suburb of Al Zawya Al Hamra. Six other men were slain in the same incident.

Military sources and Al Shaab said the first trial session of the seven jailed defendants was Jan. 20, with another session scheduled next week. Because of a government news blackout on the case, it became public only with Al Shaab's report.

The source who disclosed increased government scrutiny over the military said regular checks are now carried out to ensure that arms are not smuggled from military camps to extremists, prompted by unconfirmed reports that this has taken place.



HOLY RAMADAN: A Palestinian Muslim family walks past Israeli soldiers Friday to the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem to pray for the first day of Ramadan. More than 80,000 Palestinians came to pray (AFP photo)

Iran marks 15 years of revolution

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran marked the 15th anniversary of the Islamic revolution on Friday amid tight security following what Iranian officials say was a plot to kill President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani last week.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said a million people crowded Tehran's Azadi Square to hear Mr. Rafsanjani vow that the Islamic republic was here to stay.

Helicopters dropped flowers on the crowd which was chanting: "Death to America, death to Israel."

"Thousands of hostile eyes and ears are watching and listening today, hoping to learn that the people have lost interest in the revolution," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

"Inshallah, they will take those hopes with them to their graves."

Five rows of police and security guards separated the crowd from the stand where Mr. Rafsanjani delivered his

speech to the rally marking the day the monarchy was toppled by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's revolution in 1979.

IRNA also said thousands of people held a rally to mark the anniversary in the southern town of Zahedan, scene of armed clashes with police last week.

IRNA said thousands of Sunni Muslim and Shiite residents of Zahedan took part in the march and vowed their allegiance to the revolution and "announced their readiness to fight any internal and external conspiracy."

Residents of Zahedan, a mostly Sunni town close to Iran's border with Pakistan, said on Feb. 1 that protesters and police exchanged gunfire in the town's streets.

In Tehran, with the first light of dawn, crowds began converging at the square in western Tehran from all parts of the capital, Tehran radio reported.

It said that by 10 a.m. (0630 GMT), when President Rafsanjani addressed the crowd, it was impossible to reach within a one-kilometre range of the square.

Women, veiled head-to-foot in traditional Islamic fashion, some clutching babies, were among the crowd along with disabled war veterans of the 1980-1988 war with Iraq.

"The wide presence of the people here is clear proof that this Islamic Nation is not prepared to ignore realities affecting it. Despite the negative and despondent whispers of the enemies," Mr. Rafsanjani said as the crowd screamed "Long live the revolution."

On Feb. 1, 1979, Ayatollah Khomeini, the late founder of the revolution, returned to Iran from 14 years of exile to oust the monarch of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. The Shah's government collapsed 10 days after Ayatollah's Khomeini's return.

Israel, S. Africa nuclear partners

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Citing sealed court documents, a newspaper reported Friday that South Africa received help from Israel in the mid-1970s to develop nuclear weapons.

The independent weekly Mail and Guardian said it had obtained sealed court documents in which a former South African air force general testified that South Africa got nuclear materials from Israel after supplying the Israelis with uranium oxide in 1976.

President F.W. de Klerk last year confirmed longstanding suspicions that South Africa possessed nuclear weapons, but said they had been destroyed and all further research halted.

At the time, Mr. De Klerk said his government never cooperated with other countries on its nuclear weapons programmes. Israel will neither confirm nor deny it possesses nuclear weapons.

Campaigning Friday in the Orange Free State, Mr. De Klerk called the report "a rehash of old accusations," and denied misleading the public.

Waldo Stumpf, head of the South Africa Atomic Energy Corporation, said in a statement the materials brought and sold by South Africa were for commercial use, not the nuclear weapons programme.

"President De Klerk was correct in his assertion that South Africa did not acquire nuclear weapons technology from another country," Mr. Stumpf said.

There have been numerous reports over the years of close nuclear cooperation between South Africa and Israel. The mail said that its account was based on the sealed transcript from a 1989 extortion trial.

Mr. De Klerk said in March 1993 that South Africa's nuclear arsenal consisted of six bombs, but they were destroyed in 1990.

The weekly Mail and Guardian said South Africa had bought 30 grammes of tritium, used as a nuclear trigger, from Israel in 1977 and had provided Israel with 600 tonnes of "yellow cake" — uranium oxide which when enriched can be used for nuclear weapons.

"South Africa has swapped (nuclear) technology extensively with Israel," it added.

The newspaper said it had based its report on transcripts of a trial of a South African air force brigadier in 1989 which was the object of a supreme court ban on publication, and a book called "critical Mass" on proliferation of nuclear weapons in developing countries.

Asked to comment on the report, Israeli Ambassador Alon Liel told Reuters: "Israel in the past has denied technical cooperation in the realm of nuclear armaments several times."

U.N. troops kill two Somalis

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Pakistani troops shot and killed two Somali men trying to infiltrate the U.N. compound in Mogadishu Friday and serious clan fighting killed five Somalis in southern Somalia, a U.N. military spokesman said.

Pakistani guards at the main university compound opened fire on the two Somalis trying to sneak in early on Friday, Major Chris Budge said. One was killed, one died of his wounds in hospital. He had no information on whether the two were armed.

Maj. Budge said Indian U.N. troops in southern Somalia reported serious clan fighting on Thursday in the town of Buldo Zaiji, 60 kilometres southwest of the southern port of Kismayu.

"The situation abated after a short firefight and it is believed there were five SPM (Somali Patriotic Movement) supporters killed and an unknown number of Ogadeni wounded."

The Darod Ogaden militia of the SPM is led by General Aden Abdullahi Nur "Gabiyo" (the poet), a defence minister under dictator Mohammad Siad Barre who was overthrown in January 1991.

The Kismayu area held by Indian troops is widely seen by U.N. officers as a possible flashpoint for renewed civil war.

The United States, France, Italy, Greece, Germany, Norway, Tunisia, Turkey and South Korea are pulling out of Somalia in a troop withdrawal expected to be completed by the end of March.

Maj. Budge estimated the total strength of U.N. peacekeeping forces in Somalia after the wave of March withdrawals at 20,214 troops including 5,054 Pakistanis and 4,935 Indians.

The U.N. Security Council last week set the maximum strength of U.N. forces on Somalia at 22,000, down from 30,000 at the peak of the operation last year, and it abandoned any pretence of disarming factions, hampering food aid convoys — an initial aim.

Two British members of parliament and a British aid worker freed unharmed by clan kidnappers in a breakaway northern Somalia left for Djibouti on Friday, officials said.

Mohammad Ibrahim Egal, "president" of the self-declared republic of Somaliland, meanwhile, pledged to clean up the kidnaper area saying those responsible had seized and ransomed nine Italian sailors there last year.

Mr. Egal told Reuters by telephone to Mogadishu the three men were in good health after being released on Thursday.

Lord joins jobless queue after wife's suicide

LONDON (R) — A British lord has signed on for unemployment benefit after resigning as a minister when his wife committed suicide, a newspaper reported Friday. The Sun said former Transport Minister Lord Calthorpe was collecting £44.65 (\$65.16) a week dole having been made virtually penniless when he resigned. His wife, distraught over his friendship with a society hostess, shot herself in January. "He is no different from anyone else without a job who has fallen on hard times," it quoted a close friend as saying. Poverty among the elite of the unelected House of Lords is by no means unusual. Many of the upper house of parliament rely on their small daily attendance allowance to survive despite their grand titles.

British concern over best-selling car crash video

LONDON (R) — The British government is to investigate a controversial best-selling video of real police car chases and motorway crashes that some politicians and motoring organisations say could endanger road safety. Matthew Joint of the Automobile Association was quoted by the Times newspaper Friday as saying it was "unlikely that this video will make any contribution to road safety and we feel it could be detrimental."

"An irresponsible minority will think it clever to try to duplicate some of the antics," Opposition Labour Party Member of Parliament Peter Mandelson said police in his constituency were concerned about the effects the video, Police Stop, could have on road safety. "It consists of spectacular car chases and motorway smash-ups. This reckless encouragement to young joyriders and should be withdrawn from sale forthwith," said Mr. Mandelson.

Home Office Minister of State David MacLean told parliament Thursday he would include the tape in a government inquiry into videos aimed at curbing scenes of sex and violence. The Times said the video included footage of police car chases that end with a crash, drivers changing tyres in the fast lane, and joyriders threatening to hurl a pet dog out of the window of a speeding car unless the police stop giving chase.

U.S. reporter freed after 22 days in jail

WARREN, Ohio (AP) — A newspaper reporter, who served a longer sentence than any American journalist in a decade for refusing to testify before a grand jury, was released after 22 days in jail. Lisa Abraham, a reporter for the Tribune Chronicle of Warren, Ohio, said she did not regret her stay in the Trumbull County Jail. "I still believe I was doing the right thing. I would do it again tomorrow," she said at the newspaper's office in this town 55 miles (88 kms) southeast of Cleveland. But she added: "I hope I never have to do it again." Ohio is one of 29 states with "shield laws," which forbid forcing reporters to reveal confidential sources. But the state's law does not address the question of grand jury testimony. Ms. Abraham was jailed on Jan. 19 after Trumbull County common pleas Judge John Stuard found her in contempt of court. She had refused to testify before a grand jury investigating the \$25,000 office renovation of county engineer James Fiorenzo. Mr. Fiorenzo has been indicted on four counts of forgery and one tampering with evidence; tampering with records; and \$10,000 bond. Special prosecutor Jonathan Rosenbaum had wanted Ms. Abraham to testify about a June 25, 1993, interview with Mr. Fiorenzo. Comments made then appeared to conflict with a statement Mr. Fiorenzo issued later. Mr. Rosenbaum said, Mr. Rosenbaum, an assistant prosecutor in Lorain County, did not return telephone calls Thursday. The contempt charge would have remained in effect until the grand jury's term expired Monday.

Palestinian consensus on need for democratic elections

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The results of a new study conducted in eight areas of the West Bank and Gaza suggest that most Palestinians — he they Islamists or nationalists — "are in fact in agreement regarding elections and democracy," according to Mubarak Awad, director of the Palestinian Centre for the Study of Non-Violence (PCSN) in Washington and Jerusalem.

"Eighty-seven per cent of the respondents favour conducting general political elections in the occupied territories. 89 per cent prefer a parliament based on more than one party, and 84 per cent think the election law should be ratified by the people," Dr. Awad said in a Centre for Policy Analysis on Palestine briefing on the survey and his Jan. 17-29 trip to the occupied territories.

Dr. Awad, the first Palestinian leader known for advocating non-violence in the occupied territories, established the Centre for the Study of Non Violence in Jerusalem in 1983. He was expelled by the Israeli government in 1988 for his support of the Palestinian non-violent struggle against Israeli occupation, but continued the work of the PCSN on behalf of Palestinian independence in the United States.

Dr. Awad said he and members of the PCSN staff wanted to find out "if Palestinians are ready for elections... ready for democracy, what kind of democracy and what kind of elections we need."

In the 12-day visit, the PCSN conducted a series of "town meetings" in six refugee camps — Dura, Sawahreh, Benezait, Gaza, Qalendiya and Dahashieh — Nablus, Jericho and Jerusalem, "in order to raise the issues of democracy and elections at the grassroots of the Palestinian population and to offer a forum in which Palestinians could freely express their opinions," he said.

Following the town meetings, the surveys about Palestinian ideas on elections, government and democracy were distributed for a statistical analysis of Palestinian opinion in the West Bank and Gaza, he said.

On Jan. 29, the PCSN convened a final Jerusalem town meeting and conference, "Democracy and Elections in Palestine," where the findings of the all the town meetings and preliminary results of the surveys were presented, discussed and analysed.

"Although many people at the meetings verbally criticised democracy and dismissed it as a foreign or Western idea, the same people participated in and supported the democratic process," he said.

The participants "respected majority opinion."

Dr. Awad said the findings of the survey, Dr. Awad said the major concern of the 1,575 respondents was "a guarantee of freedoms" — individual freedom, including human rights, general ideological freedom, and ethical and religious freedom. A fear of lack of trust in authority was also expressed by many participants, he said.

Moreover, 87 per cent of the respondents support the right of women to vote, and 68 per cent support the right



Mubarak Awad

contributed their ideas at meetings, cooperated with the discussion process, respected others and their opposing ideas, and completed the survey. Although the debate was active (every one wanted to talk at once) it was also orderly. Dr. Awad said.

In discussing the findings of the survey, Dr. Awad said the major concern of the 1,575 respondents was "a guarantee of freedoms" — individual freedom, including human rights, general ideological freedom, and ethical and religious freedom. A fear of lack of trust in authority was also expressed by many participants, he said.

Moreover, 87 per cent of the respondents support the right of women to vote, and 68 per cent support the right

of women to be nominated to run for office, he pointed out. Dr. Awad said these attitudes reflect "the very active role of women in the intifada," as well as the youth of the respondents.

Dr. Awad said the upcoming voter registration drive in preparation for July 13 elections on interim self government (agreed to in the declaration of principles) will focus on including women in the democratic process.

Other findings in the survey point up needs and the priorities Palestinians see for the new interim government:

— 82 per cent favour primary or preliminary elections within the party to elect their nominee for general elections.

— 58 per cent support a "democratic republic."

— 52 per cent support voting on a national basis.

— 67 per cent prefer direct presidential elections.

— 74 per cent favour direct mayoral elections.

— 54 per cent prefer that elections take place every four years.

— 54 per cent support a limitation on the number of terms a person can be nominated for the same office.

— 52 per cent see the best minimum voting age as 18.

— 49 per cent want to be able to choose candidates from various parties at the ballot box.

As for who the respondents were, the study found:

— 85 per cent of those in refugee camps were unemployed.

— 56 per cent of respondents were college students or graduates.

— 71 per cent of the respondents were between the ages of 16 and 21.

— 77 per cent were male.

Another unusual finding, he noted, was that 39 per cent believe that the elections should include Palestinians residing in the occupied territories, in exile, in autonomy plan regions and Palestinian Arabs living in Israel.

Dr. Awad also underscored the importance of conducting elections for an interim government within the time frame established in the PLO-Israeli declaration of principles. He said residents of the West Bank and Gaza "needed a signal" that conditions can and will be changed, and for this reason, holding elections on time is "critical."

"It is our conclusion that democratisation would reduce violence and conflict within our society and put an end to the political Palestinian/Israeli conflict," Dr. Awad said.

For all these reasons, he said, "the need for civic education, training, voter registration... and party organisation to organise elections that will allow the Palestinians to choose and create their new society... is urgent... and crucial."